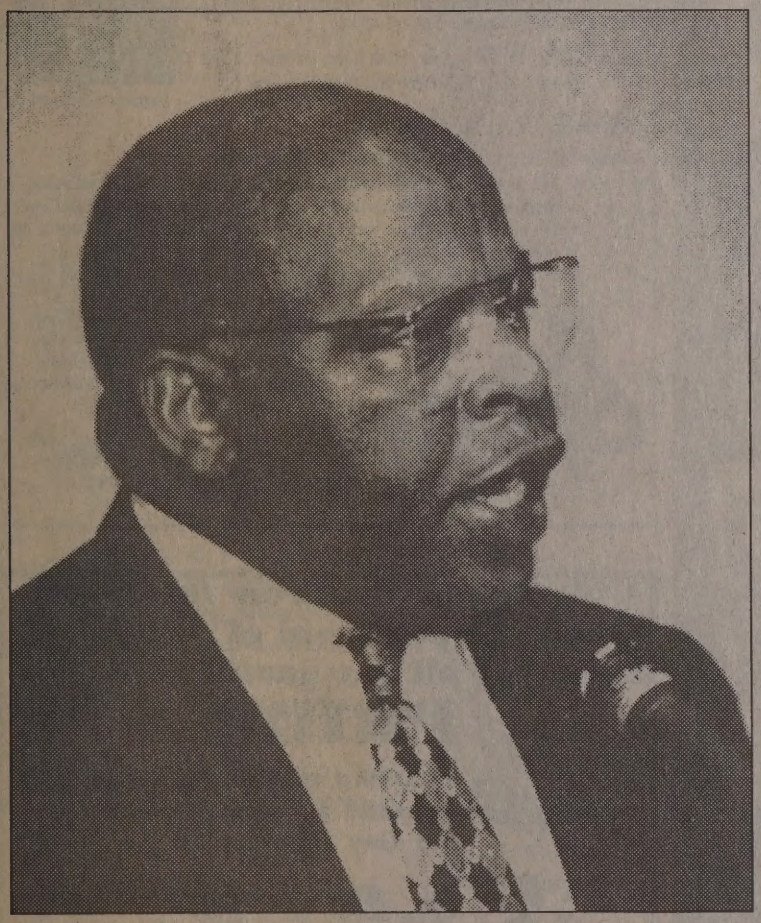
BLACK LINES

OCT. 1997, Vol. 2, No. 9 Free/$2 outside Chicago EXPRESSIONS FROM BLACK GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED LIFE



Black Gays Host Congressional Black Caucus Dinner

Civil-rights leader John Lewis (left), U.S. Representative from Georgia, strongly backs gay and lesbian rights.

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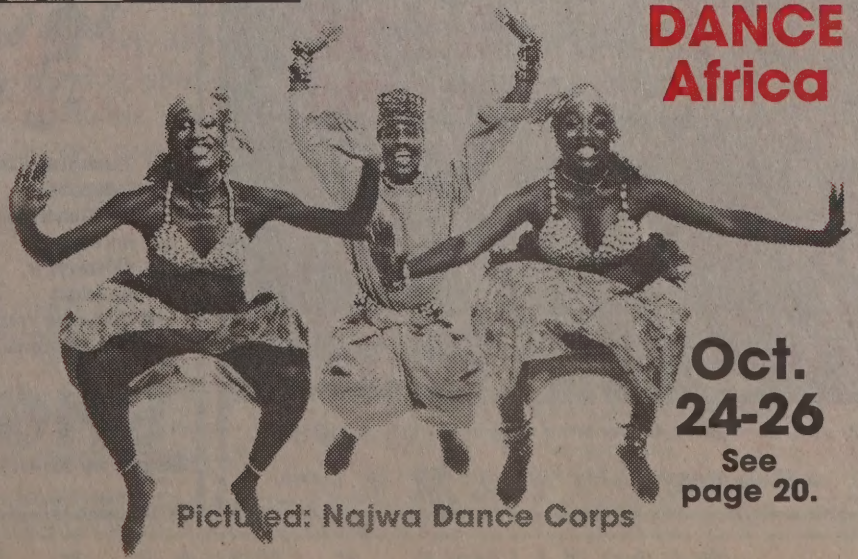

DANCE Africa

Pictured: Najwa Dance Corps

Oct. 24-26

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PRESENTS

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Women & Children First Books

Anita Hill

Jamaica Kincaid

Monday, Oct. 6, 7:15 p.m.: Melissa Lutdke: *On Our Own: Unmarried Motherhood in America*

Wed., Oct. 15: Anita Hill:
Speaking Truth to Power
Women & Children First is hosting Hill's only public appearance in Chicago, Harris Bank Auditorium, 111 W. Monroe, 6:30 p.m. (doors open at 6). Co-sponsored by the Women's Bar Association of Illinois. **Tickets are $30 and include an autographed copy of the book.** Women & Children First (either in the store or over the phone) and WBAI (call Sandy Opyt at 312-341-8530).

Thurs., Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m. Rita Mae Brown: *Rita Will: Memoir of a Literary Rabble-Rouser*

Thursday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m.
Jamaica Kincaid: *My Brother: A Memoir*
We are proud to welcome the brilliant writer Jamaica Kincaid, author of five books, most recently *The Autobiography of My Mother*, to our store to read and sign copies of her new memoir, *My Brother*. Kincaid's brother died of AIDS in 1996 at the age of 33. The youngest of four children, highly intelligent, well read, a gifted athlete, he was also a dreamer who aroused both love and anger. Kincaid's trademark prose, incantory, poetic, and sometimes shockingly frank, describes a life that ended too early and speaks volumes about the difficult truths at the heart of all families.

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BLACK LINES

October, 1997
Volume 2, Number 9

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Editorial

by LaJaunessee Jordan

Have you ever noticed that whenever there's a dance and "Electric Slide," "The Bus Stop" or a song with a similar beat is played, there are some people who quickly hop onto the dance-floor, get things rolling and are so skilled that they add additional moves and look so graceful—not even having to think about what they're doing? Then there are some who constantly watch their own or someone else's feet and they may get out of step at times and Charlie Green says, "You did not rehearse!"

Lately, I've become more aware that most people don't glide through life with that graceful electric slide confidence that those first ones on the floor have. Most people need that pat on the back, that show of support, that "I understand." This is something we all know. But it doesn't always remain on the tip of our minds. Think about how you feel when you get a genuine compliment. Or when no one seems to understand—and then someone does. And you realize your thoughts or feelings aren't so "off the wall" after all.

I was talking with my friend, Marilee. We were talking about how a mutual friend, Phyllis, is always able to figure out specifically what a given problem is and come up with a workable solution when no one else can. I was thinking that it's as if everyone else is focusing on symptoms and Phyllis has already diagnosed the disease and come up with the cure. As we talked further, Marilee said, "I guess I should be telling this to Phyllis." I'm sure she did. And so did I.

Too often we fail to let people know that we appreciate them or that they've done something worthy of praise. Mama Judd (better known as Naomi) has received various awards throughout the years. She said, "You all (fans) gave me a pat on the back." She said that made her feel like, "Maybe I'm okay after all." She didn't say, "Our millions of dollars in record sales did it," nor "All of our awards did it." She said a pat on the back from her fans did it. Deep down inside, most people want to know, "Am I doing okay?" "Am I a good partner?" "Am I a good listener?" and on and on.

Comic diva Karen Williams told me, "I laughed at your ear joke for a whole year." Coming from a womon who's been about the business of making people laugh for about 15 years—and then some—that was truly a valued compliment. I bought a shirt that cost twice as much as others I bought that same day. I hesitated but got it anyway because I liked it so much. I got about six compliments on it in one night. That was confirmation that I had made the right choice.

A white male journalist from out of town came up to me at the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association Conference and said, "You put the words to music in your writing." The other day, Toni Armstrong, Jr. said, "BLACKLINES keeps looking better and better." Myself, BLACKLINES writers, photographers and other staff are often commended on the work that we do in our effort to make people aware of issues and concerns that may not be covered by others. Because I, too, sometimes watch my feet in the dance of life, and sometimes people throw banana peels on the dance floor, all of the above helps me to realize that maybe I really am okay after all.

LETTERS

AIDS Walk Boycott

Recently, the People of Color Coalition held a protest against AIDS Walk Chicago. There have been numerous media reports about the protest and the call for a boycott of AIDS Walk 8. We feel it is important to address the issues that the POC Coalition has with AIDS Walk and bring them directly to the community.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has increased in communities of color, yet there are no agencies of color in the AIDS Walk partnership; the board has only one person of color, and no openly HIV-positive members on its Board. People of color contribute to the AIDS Walk, yet there is no agency from a community of color who directly benefits from the monies raised. **This is a problem!**

Since October 1996, the POC Coalition has tried to work with the AIDS Walk Board to address important steps the AIDS Walk Board must take to combat the shifting face of the HIV/AIDS crisis. The POC Coalition's contention has never been that the agencies involved in the AIDS Walk partnership do not provide services to people of color. We challenge the fact that agencies based in communities of color are not on the AIDS Walk Board, and are unable to directly receive funds raised from the Walk. The Board does not reflect the populations it serves, and refused to identify in writing, the steps it will take to ensure that communities of color are represented in its planning process.

The POC Coalition's concerns have been ignored. We have chosen not to be silent about the lack of response from the AIDS Walk Board. Inaction on the part of the AIDS Walk Board has brought the situation to where it is today. We continue to call on the Board to take the following actions:

1) Develop and implement a process that would allow other HIV/AIDS providers to become members of AIDS Walk, specifically targeting agencies led by people of color and provide services in communities of color.

2) Set aside a minimum of 35% of the funds derived from the AIDS Walk, placed in a restricted fund, to be awarded to agencies led by people of color, for the purpose of building capacity withing those agencies and community areas.

3) Structure the AIDS Walk Board to include as voting members, at least two individuals who are HIV-positive, two community/corporate representatives, and two individuals representing communities of color who are not recipients of AIDS Walk funds.

The AIDS Walk Board continues to stall. We are seeking an equitable solution from the AIDS Walk Board. AIDS Walk has to be held accountable to the communities that support and contribute to its success. The POC Coalition asks that you show your support through the following actions:

1) Give directly to community-based agencies of color. POC has a list: call 773-235-3161.

2) Write the AIDS Walk Board at 221 N. LaSalle, 6th Floor, Chicago, IL 60601, and insist the Board provide a written plan to the POC Coalition that demonstrates how people of color will be involved in their planning.

3) Request that your pledges go directly to an agency of color.

4) At the Walk, wear a red arm band to symbolize support for issues raised by POC Coalition.

Renae Ogletree, Martin Gonzalez, Robert Shultz
People of Color Coalition

I am saddened and dismayed by recent struggles over limited HIV/AIDS resources and arguments about who is best equipped to provide services. Our battle should be with this virus, not with each other. I will not choose sides. I will join with anyone willing to fight for additional monies to continue the work begun and expand access to new providers as the virus spreads.

I encourage everyone to keep the following thoughts in mind: 1) Despite the media hype, AIDS IS NOT OVER! 2) Protease inhibitors are not a panacea for HIV infection. 3) Protease inhibitors do not prevent new infections. 4) If crisis mentality is lost, we are likely to have less money and lots of new infections. 5) Long-term survival of personal prevention efforts, people living with HIV, and services will require new strategies and constant renewal/restoration of effort.

Steve Wakefield, AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition

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Briefly

by L.J.

YAHIMBA confab

The Multicultural YAHIMBA Conference, which will be held Oct. 10-11 at Malcolm X College, has a wide variety of presenters and workshops and all are welcome for the event.

The theme of this year's conference is "Bridges." Jackie Anderson, YAHIMBA founder and keynote speaker, said, "This year the thrust of the conference is 'bridges.' So we have and will continue to reach out to the larger community to bring us together to learn, to share and to have a good time." Anderson has been inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, and she is a professor, activist, editor and one who most in the community call "friend."

The YAHIMBA Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, Oct. 10-11 at Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Van Buren. There will be an open forum facilitated by Dr. Gladys Croom, "Our Clients and Children: What We Need to Know." A Real Read, Chicago's premiere Les/Bi/Gay/Trans theater performance group, will take the stage Friday at 7 p.m. There will be a booksigning by Lisa Moore, editor of *Does Your Mama Know?*, an anthology of Black lesbian coming-out stories. Gay Asians and Pacific Islanders of Chicago and Amigas Latinas Lesbianas will be workshop presenters.

Workshops topics include: communicating across ethnic and inter-generational barriers among Les/Bi/Gay women, financial planning, sexuality issues, and also a youth summit.

"We are a diverse group of people with many interests and we will have something that will benefit everyone in the Les/Bi/Gay/Trans and straight communities, " said Jan Arthur, President of YAMIMBA. "We will end our celebration of sharing knowledge and culture with a dance at Paris (1122 W. Montrose). 'Bridges' not only relates to various communities. We would like to bridge education and fun so that we take care of our complete selves. YAHIMBA hopes that all will join us at Paris Dance," Arthur said.

For more information call (312) 409-0276 for recorded information or (847) 328-7715 to speak with someone.

Racism meeting

A special forum is set for Saturday, Sept. 27. The "Color Triangle: A Different Look At Racism In Our Community, a town meeting, is at Harold Washington Library, 400 S State. Reserved seats (773) 973-3999. The event is co-sponsored by Lesbigay Radio, the city's Commission on Human Relations, and BLACKLINES/ OUTLINES/EN LA VIDA, in cooperation with Amigas Latinas, Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays, Clubhouse, Khuli Zaban, Sidetrack, and Women of All Colors/Cultures Together.

Home-buying forum

Church of the Open Door will host a home-buying seminar for Black gays and lesbians Oct. 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The free seminar is at the church, 5954 S. Albany. Participants will meet with gay-friendly banking, credit and financial professionals in an informal, non-threatening environment. For Call (773) 778-3030.

'All God's Children' Black & gay film shown

The Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network will host a free screening of the video *All God's Children* Tuesday, Sept. 30. This 27-minute video documents the African-American church's pro-gay positions, in response to an anti-gay film produced by the religious right. The screening is at Conrad Sulzer Library, 4455 N.Lincoln at 7 p.m. A discussion follows.

Incident at restaurant

Lisa Griffin, a BLACKLINES writer, reported she found a fingernail in her food while dining at Tacqueria Las Americanas. When she pointed out the problem, an employee allegedly yelled and cursed at her. Griffin, who is Black, said she and two white friends were eating at the restaurant, 1434 W.Belmont, when she bit something she presumed was a sliver of a chicken bone. Griffin was sickened at the thought of eating at a restaurant and finding a fingernail in her food. She told the waiter who then asked her how the fingernail got into her food, and held his hands up saying, "It's not mine!" Griffin reported. She said another employee came to their table and asked, in an accusatory manner, where the fingernail came from as he showed his nails. "Both of them had dirty nails and that wasn't a nice thing to see," Griffin said. She informed them that she was not going to pay for the $7 meal, and then one of the men immediately took it away seemingly to keep her from eating more, "As if I would," she stated. She then asked for the owner of Tacqueria Las Americas, where she had been a regular customer. Griffin told BLACKLINES one of the waiters said, "If you find out who he (the owner) is, tell him I said he's a jerk off! Just get out of here! We don't want your fucking money! Keep your fucking money!" Griffin said she then told the employee, "You owe it to me to tell me who the owner is and to not curse me out. I didn't come here to scam you out of $7." She said that same employee then yelled, "You're a piece of trash! If it (the fingernail) was in your food there would be guacamole and beans on it! You're lying! You fucking piece of trash!" Griffin reported that her friend Cheryl Patton asked the employee what his name was and that he answered, "Art," and even extended his hand in an attempt to shake Patton's hand. Griffin said Patton refused to shake his hand and said, "I can't believe you're cursing at her and talking to her like that." The trio then left without further incident, Griffin said. Patton corroborated Griffin's story. This reporter attempted to talk with the owner or manager of Tacqueria Las Americanas many times. Twice I was told that the owner would be back in half an hour. Each time I called back I was told he wasn't in. A female whom I talked with told me the owner's name is Roberto Rodriguez. A man identifying himself as "Pedro" said, "I can't talk to you." Once I called and asked for the owner and the man on the other end yelled, "The owner isn't here!" and hung up. On my final call, I asked if I could leave my phone number. As soon as I did, I was told that the owner is in Mexico and the employees don't know when he will return. I was also told that there is no manager and are no supervisors.

Local briefs

Former Illinois Comptroller and Attorney General Roland Burris announced his candidacy for governor recently. He said the reason he is running is because Illinois school children can no longer wait for fair educational funding. He also accused the state's Republicans of being disingenuous in their efforts.

The Chicago Department of Health's HIV Public Policy and Programs has announced that nominations are being sought for the HIV Service Planning Council. If you are interested in applying to serve on the Council, please send your completed nomination form and, if available, a copy of your resume by Friday, October 31, 1997 to: Ms. Evelyn Green, HIV Public Policy and Programs, Chicago Department of Public Health, 333 S. State Street, Room 200, Chicago, Il 60604, phone 312-0747 for more information.

More than a million Chicago Public School (CPS) textbooks are bound for Durban, South Africa. The massive collection is part of a collaborative effort by the City of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools and the Sara Lee Corp. to help address the great shortage of textbooks in Durban. A few months ago, CPS began collecting textbooks that its curriculum had outgrown. Board officials, CPS educators and administrators, and students from more than 200 public schools participated.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., chairman of Harvard's Afro-American Studies Department, will lecture in the Chicago Humanities Festival Preview on Oct. 16. Gates' lecture "When tricksters, Con Men and Fools

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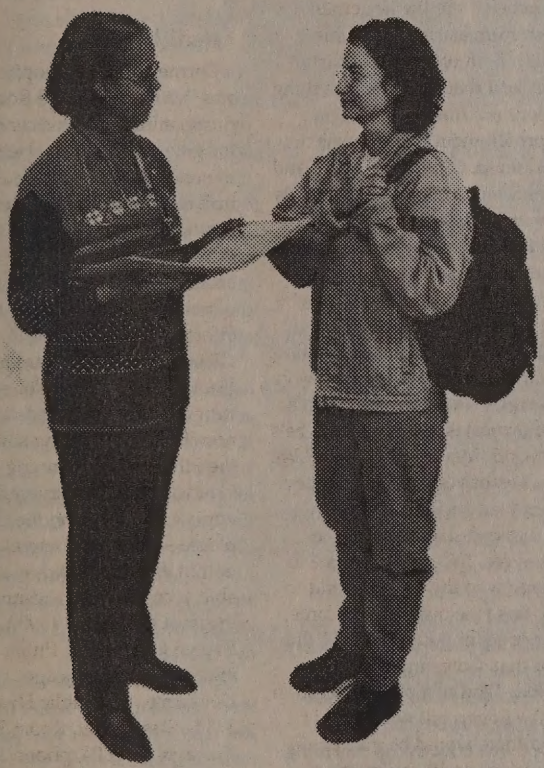

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Political Stars Shine at Task Force Event: Coretta Scott King Honored

by Bob Roehr

U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy's rousing introduction, Coretta Scott King's moving acceptance, or Vice President Al Gore's "surprise" appearance. Which was the highlight? The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) certainly had much to choose from at their "Honoring Our Allies" event held in Washington, D.C., Sept. 15.

Executive director Kerry Lobel told the crowd of more than 200, "We work to build a progressive movement, one that respects and celebrates the diversity of human expression and identity. We of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people are part of a broader movement for social justice and freedom."

"The heart of our work is a federation of over 30 statewide organizations, representing the fact that the center or gravity has shifted from Washington, D.C.—in fact it was never here—to the states." She pointed to New Hampshire and Maine as the latest states to enact legal protection for lesbians and gays. "Now 25 percent of the people living in this country are covered by such laws."

Sen. Ted Kennedy threw out the names of Jesse Helms and the Christian Coalition to rouse the crowd. Many of his words, when reduced to paper, seemed shallow, but his booming voice energized the room as he delivered them.

His role was to introduce the main recipient of the evening's awards. "Tonight we honor a person that carries forward her husband's dream that injustice anyplace threatens justice anywhere. Who understands completely that you cannot separate discrimination."

Coretta Scott King was brilliant in a magenta jacket and noble in accepting her award from the Task Force. "It's hard to believe that in 1997, I still get criticism for speaking out against discrimination and bigotry towards people because of their sexual orientation. ... All I can do is tell these folks that the civil-rights movement that I believe in thrives on unity and inclusion, not division and exclusion."

"I accept this award, not only with gratitude to you for recognizing me, but also with a deep appreciation for the dedication and commitment to creating a society where all citizens can live together in justice, equality, and peace."

"I accept this award as a reaffirmation of my commitment to carry forward the unfinished work of my husband, Martin Luther King, Jr. My husband understood that all forms of discrimination and persecution were unjust and unacceptable for a great democracy. He believed that none of us could be free until all of us were free. That a person of conscience had no alternative but to defend the human rights of all people."

Kennedy and King departed and the crowd grew restless waiting for the Vice President en route to the event. Then Lobel stepped back to the microphone. "As you know, the Task Force has not always agreed with everything the administration does. But I can say with all candor and sincerity that we deeply appreciate the willingness that Vice President Gore has shown to hearing our concerns."

Gore was effective in warming up an audience liberally seeded with gay and lesbian members of the administration. "It is time for all Americans to recognize that the issues that face gays and lesbians in this country are not narrow special interests, they are matters of basic human and civil rights. It is not enough for you to have a seat at the table. Everybody has got to realize that as full members of the American family, it's your table too."

"President Clinton and I are very strongly committed to doing what we can" on a laundry list of issue areas that was short on specifics. Concluding that section of his remarks, he noted that "gay and lesbian issues always have a place on our agenda at the state, local, and community levels, which is the specialty of the Task Force, and ... at the national level."

Gore seemed to future lower expectations of administration action when he said, "Let's face it, some of the greatest challenges that we face are not challenges of law but challenges of the heart. We've got to reach the day when all people understand that our diversity is our greatest strength. And everyone must be judged on the content of his or her character."

Other honorees that evening were the Mautner Project for lesbians with cancer and John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO.

African American Gay Leader Meets with Gov. Officials, Gay Leaders

In response to recent anti-gay policies of the government of Zimbabwe, a Black gay official from the U.S. met with Black leaders of Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) and with American and Zimbabwean government officials during a trip to Harare, Zimbabwe in late July.

Keith Boykin, the executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, was the only openly gay person to participate in President Clinton's 35-member U.S. delegation to Zimbabwe. While in Harare, Boykin met with half a dozen gay and lesbian activists and visited the office of GALZ, Zimbabwe's only major gay and lesbian organization.

"I was very inspired by the courage of the lesbians and gay men I met in Zimbabwe," said Boykin. "In the face of stiff resistance, these freedom fighters press on for justice."

Homosexual conduct is illegal in Zimbabwe, and GALZ members reported that police routinely harass gays and lesbians. For the past two years, Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe has ordered Zimbabwe's gay organization banned from participating in an annual international book fair and has labeled them as "sexual perverts" and compared them to "dogs and pigs."

Zimbabwe's state-dominated media will not allow positive coverage of gay and lesbian issues, according to a local reporter in Harare, who interviewed Boykin about the situation.

GALZ members are also preparing for a conference of the World Council of Churches to take place in Zimbabwe in the fall of 1998.

Boykin met with the Honorable Justice Mahomed A. Adam of the High Court of Zimbabwe and discussed Zimbabwe's lack of formal legal protections for gays and lesbians. Adam said that he was unaware of any legal challenges to Zimbabwe's sodomy laws, but Boykin noted that the one-party government's anti-gay rhetoric had intimidated many activists from coming out and challenging the laws. President Mugabe's ZANU PF Party controls the entire Zimbabwean Parliament.

Also in Harare, Boykin met with the U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Johnnie Carson, and with the U.S. Embassy staff, who briefed him on the current political climate for gays and lesbians in that country. During the same trip, he

Turn to page 13

YAHIMBA

Invites Everyone to Attend its 1997 Multicultural conference

"BRIDGES"

Friday & Saturday, October 10-11, 1997

Malcolm X College, 1900 West Van Buren, Chicago

Includes Vendors of Original Art, Videos & Gallery Oasis

Friday: Registration begins 1 p.m.

Performance by A Real Read 7 p.m.

Open Forum 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Our Clients & Children: What We need To Know

Facilitated by **Dr. Gladys Croom**

Saturday: Registration 8 a.m.-10 a.m.

Keynote Speaker 10 a.m.

Jackie Anderson

Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame, Professor, Activist, Philosopher, Author, Editor

Lisa Moore *Booksigning*

Editor and Author, *Does Your Mama Know?* Black lesbian coming-out stories

Workshops begin 11 a.m., Conference ends 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 8 p.m.: **Dance at Paris,** 1122 W. Montrose ($7, not included in registration fee)

Workshops

Self-Imagery ▾ Financial Planning ▾ A Youth Summit ▾ Communicating Across Ethnic & Inter-Generational Barriers Among Les/Bi/Gay Women ▾ Sexuality, Sexual Practices, & Safer Sex ▾ Transgenesis ▾ Women's Health Issues ▾ Community Legal Issues ▾ The Changing Faces of Being Gay ▾ Violence ▾ Massage Therapy ▾ Leather/Fetish/S&M Lifestyle ▾ Black Women & Self-Recovery From Emotional Abuse ▾ Gay Asians & Pacific Islanders of Chicago ▾ Amigas Latinas Lesbianas ▾ Sobriety

General Registration $40 Reduced for Paid Membership

Registration includes: Reception, Lunch, Workshops, & Friday Night Performance

YAHIMBA Info-Line **(312) 409-0276**

U.S. Rep. Lewis Rouses Black Gay Forum Event

by Bob Roehr

"Ten years ago the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum was a small, struggling organization in Los Angeles. Today we are a big struggling organization headquartered in Washington," executive director Keith Boykin told the Forum's Second annual Leadership Dinner. The event at the National Press Club Sept. 9, drew 250 to kick off the week of Congressional Black Caucus activities.

"Empowerment is helping people help themselves,"" Boykin said in articulating their mission. "We believe in visibility because we practice it in (projecting) Black gay and lesbian positive images in the media, in THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE WASHINGTON POST.. ... We should be proud of that fact."

Speaker Sabrina Sojourner was elected congressional representative of the District of Columbia to push for statehood. She is the first elected lesbian or gay official in the Washington area. She lamented, "This is the only capital of any nation in the world in which the citizens and residents are treated differently than the rest of the citizens of the rest of the country."

She described the Leadership Forum as a "bridge" between the Black and gay communities. And she praised Congressman John Lewis for his long work with both communities.

John Lewis, D-Georgia, is one of the giants of the civil-rights movement. In the 1960s he was jailed 40 times. He was beaten and his bones broken. Now he sits on the powerful Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"When I first ran for Congress in the city of Atlanta, I sought, needed, and received the support of Atlanta's gay and lesbian community," he said. "I cannot and I do not forget my friends. So I am very pleased to be here tonight."

"Make your concerns a part of the Black national agenda and you have my word that I will do my part," he said with a full-throated growl. He cited the police brutality against a Haitian in New York and the bombing of a lesbian bar in Atlanta as examples of continued hatred. "I fought too long and too hard against discrimination based on race and color not to stand up against discrimination based on sexual orientation."

"I believe we must recapture our sense of identity. Gay and straight, bisexual and transsexual, rich and poor, white, brown, yellow, and red, we have a stake in this world. We are all in the same world."

He advised, "If someone denies you a job because of your sexual orientation, say no. And find a lawyer." The room erupted with applause. "We must replace the politics of anger and blame with the politics of hope."

Lewis recalled the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) when it was on the floor of the House. "I opposed and fought this bill with all of my heart because I thought it was a mean-spirited bill designed to sow the seeds of hatred and fear rather than fairness. Marriage is a basic human right, whether it be a man and a woman, two men, or two women."

"I know racism. I have tasted the fruits of segregation and bigotry. This bill speaks to the same fear, hatred, and intolerance that denies Blacks the right to vote or admission to a state university. Our Declaration of Independence guarantees us the rights to liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

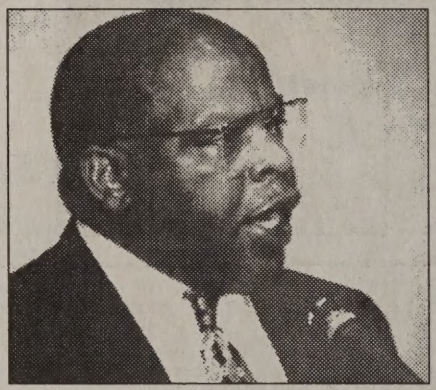
He said the Employment Non-Discrimination (ENDA) is "about your pocketbook and your career. Your sexuality has nothing to do with your ability to perform and do a good job."

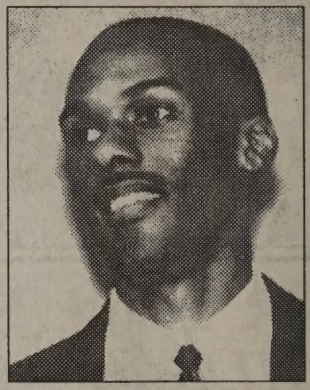
"Newt Gingrich and his Christian Coalition friends want to separate us. Rich and poor. Black and white. Gay and straight. We must say no, we will not give up. We will continue to fight."

He closed by quoting "my old friend Jimmy Baldwin": "Your crown has been bought and paid for. All you must do is put it on your head." He urged that we "wear it with dignity."

"Our struggle is not a struggle that lasts for one day, or one week, or one month, or one season, or one year. Our struggle is a struggle of a lifetime. So keep it up, and continue to fight, and keep your eyes on the prize."

Rep. Cynthia McKinney, D-Georgia, was scheduled to speak but had to leave when a roll-call vote occurred on the floor of the House. The keynote address was delivered by author Ilyanla Vanzant, whose most recent book is *The Value in the Valley: A Black Woman's Guide Through Life's Dilemmas* (Simon & Schuster, 1995).





From left: Rep. John Lewis, Rep. Sabrina Sojourner, and the Forum's Keith Boykin.

Photos by Bob Roehr

Black doctor tapped for surgeon general

Dr. David Satcher was nominated Sept. 12 to be both assistant secretary of health and surgeon general. He is currently director of the Centers for Disease Control.

This is the first time in two decades the positions have been combined. Many consider it a downgrading of the surgeon general's "bully pulpit" on public health. That post has been vacant since December 1994 when Clinton in effect fired Joycelyn Elders for speaking candidly on HIV prevention.

The Centers for Disease Control is generally considered a bureaucratic morass, a condition which preceded Satcher's tenure. However, critics see little evidence of success in reforming the laggard agency. — *Bob Roehr*

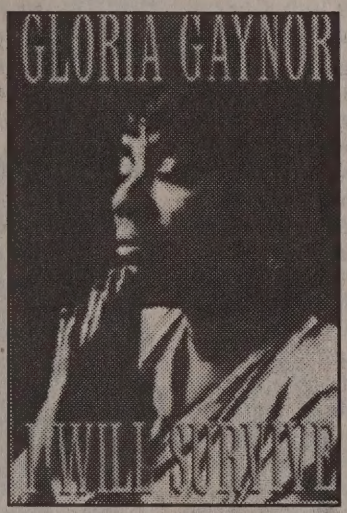
Thursday, October 2nd
7:30 p.m.
Gladys Knight
autographing her new book,
Between Each Line of Pain and Glory
(Hyperion, $24.95)

Unabridged Bookstore Presents

Wednesday October 22nd
7:30 p.m.
Gloria Gaynor
autographing her new book,
I WILL SURVIVE
(St. Martins, $21.95)

Ms. Knight and Ms. Gaynor will only be signing copies of their new books, Photographs will not be permitted

unabridged BOOKSTORE
3251 N. Broadway
Chicago, Illinois 60657
(773) 883-9119



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AIDS Walk boycott remains

AIDS Walk announces board expansion, People of Color Coalition still not satisfied, red armbands pushed

by P.J. Engelbrecht

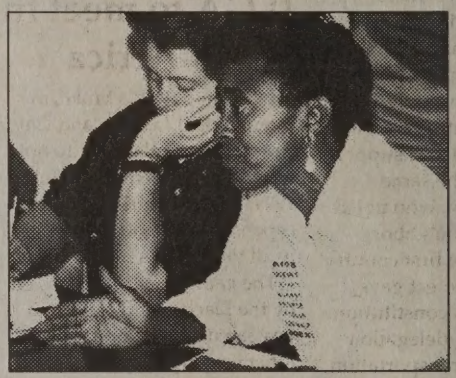
After the People of Color Coalition called a boycott of AIDS Walk 8 during an Aug. 28 protest, AIDS Walk Chicago Executive Director Paul Hook promised that the fundraiser's Board of Directors would consider Coalition demands during a scheduled Sept. 3 retreat. AIDS Walk 8 takes place Sept. 28.

The People of Color Coalition (PCC) charges that the 12 partner agencies comprising AIDS Walk Chicago (AWC) collectively discriminate against people and communities of color, particularly evidenced by the lack of people of color on the Board of Directors and the absence of any community of color-based agencies among the AWC partners (since the demise of Kupona Network, AWC's 13th founding agency).

The PCC wants representation of people of color and HIV+ persons on the board, and they want new partner agencies from communities of color added to the AWC consortium.

"The People of Color Coalition concerns have been ignored. ... Since Oct. 1996, the ... Coalition has tried to work with the AIDS Walk board to address important steps the board must take to combat the shifting face of the HIV/AIDS crisis," said PCC leaders Renae Ogletree, Robert Schultz, and Martín González-Rojas in a prepared statement Sept. Sept. 12.

In response to the charges, on Sept. 8, the AWC Board of Directors announced plans "to broaden their coalition by creating new, non-partner Board of Director positions. ... A detailed action plan for Board expansion will be in place by Oct. 31. ... The ... positions are being established to provide AWC with a wider set of skills, and incorporate a wider range of insight into the decision-making process," according to an AWC press release.



Paul Hook (left) of the AIDS Walk and Renae Ogletree of the People of Color Coalition during the Aug. 28 protest. Photos by Israel Wright

Hook told OUTLINES that four to six new seats may be added, and that the current AWC Board would devise a selection process for non-agency-affiliated directors over the course of its next two board meetings (Sept. 18 and Oct. 16).

Hook said that the People of Color Coalition would be consulted "for the expansion ... to get some input on who will be likely candidates."

"The board does not reflect the populations it serves, and it refuses to identify in writing the steps it will take to insure that communities of color ... are represented in its planning process," complained the PCC leaders.

Hook acknowledged that the PCC had not yet been asked for advice.

"We're talking with a number of people in the process. The activists are just one voice, [and] there's a whole lot of people who need to be heard," said Hook. "The bottom line is, we are a private fundraiser."

When asked Friday to comment on the planned Board expansion, PCC co-chair Martín González-Rojas said that, despite promises of cooperation, the PCC had learned of the projected Board additions only indirectly, through press releases sent to third parties.

"We're still not working together," González said. "They didn't contact the Coalition directly. ... We haven't been involved in [any] way whatsoever." González reiterated the PCC conviction that the AWC is insensitive to, even unaware of, the needs of people of color: "They have to have a close tie to the community, [or else] they have a handicap."

Most of the AWC partner agencies are situated in white neighborhoods on Chicago's North Side. When Hook was pressed on who would be selected for the newly expanded Board, and on whether more input from the community and from people of color would be useful in carrying out the Board expansion, he reserved the decisions to the Board's responsibility, declaring unapologetically, "This is a $2 million business. ... My main concern is, how do we continue to make this a viable fundraiser?"

Hook believes that "now is not the time" for picketing or boycotting, just days before AIDS Walk 8, even if the Board has not handled PCC-raised issues well in the past.

"It's easy to charge racism," sighed Hook. "But it's the people who receive services that will suffer here, to move [other] people's personal agendas forward."

Since the call to boycott, the PCC has slightly moderated its own position. The PCC leaders' Sept. 12 statement asks AIDS Walk 8 participants to wear red armbands demonstrating solidarity with the Boycott even as they walk. PCC suggests that individuals make contributions directly to agencies in communities of color, and that AIDS Walk donors request in writing that their pledges be funneled to people of color-led agencies. (Call the Coalition at 773-235-3161 for direct contribution information.)

The PCC now also demands that the AWC set aside 35% of Walk proceeds in a restricted account, to be distributed directly to agencies led by people of color, in communities of color. This year's Walk is expected to raise $2 million dollars, so the PCC wants $700,000 to be set aside—assuming the boycott does not diminish fundraising.

Hook suspects irreparable damage may already have been done to the AWC—and, by extension, to the HIV+ people of color who comprise the vast majority of AWC partner agencies' clients. AWC publicity materials on the South Side have been plastered over with PCC boycott info denouncing AWC racism, said Hook. He fears that when people read and believe the charges, "every AIDS fundraiser ... has lost them forever."

Himself HIV+, González countered, "the last thing [the PCC] wants to do is hurt the Walk ... but people have the right to be informed."

AFRICA from 8

met with U.S. Ambassador Joseph Wilson, the African Director of the National Security Council, and he urged the American government to raise human rights concerns in meetings with the leaders of Zimbabwe's government.

"The situation in Zimbabwe poses a challenge for American policy makers," said Boykin. "On one hand, the U.S. must help support the development of African countries, including Zimbabwe, but on the other hand, the U.S. cannot ignore its responsibility to speak out on critical issues of human rights," he added. "It's important that we support Africa and support human rights at the same time," said Boykin, who noted that Zimbabwe's neighbor South Africa is the first country in the world to protect gays and lesbians in its constitution.

The official U.S. delegation was led by U.S. Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater and the Rev. Jesse Jackson and included Coretta Scott King; Dorothy Height of the National Council of Negro Women; former New York City Mayor David Dinkins; Ernest Green, who was one of nine Black students who integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957; George Haley, brother of famed *Roots* author Alex Haley; Michael Brown, President and CEO of the Ronald H. Brown Foundation; and Niara Sudarkasa, President of Lincoln College in Pennsylvania.

The summit took place from July 20 to July 25 and addressed topics including AIDS and healthcare, arts and culture, business and economic development, media and communications, education, democracy and governance, population, and women's issues.

According to the World Health Organization, nearly two-thirds of all people living with HIV/AIDS are in sub-Saharan Africa. In Harare, Zimbabwe, an estimated 1 out of every 5 men is HIV-infected and the number rises to 1 out of 3 in the uniformed services, according to the U.S. Embassy. Despite the presence of several major American businesses at the Zimbabwe Summit, virtually no American pharmaceutical companies participated, according to Boykin.

"It's well past time for American drug companies and American political leaders to play a larger role in reducing the spread of AIDS throughout Africa," Boykin said.

ILGA to meet in South Africa

Even though it is broke, the International Lesbian and Gay Association is planning to hold its next world conference, in 1999, in South Africa—a very expensive airplane ride for nearly all the group's members.

The gathering will be hosted by the Black group Gays and Lesbian of Witwatersrand—in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban or Pretoria.

At ILGA's recent conference in Cologne, Germany, it was revealed that the group is so broke it will no longer have a paid employee and may have to scale back publication of the ILGA Bulletin. Board members —who come from every region of the world—also said they have no idea where the money will come from to fly themselves to the next board meeting in December in Lima, Peru.

During the conference, Jordi Petit of Spain was re-elected ILGA co-chair, joined by newcomer Jennifer Wilson of Australia.

Meanwhile, South Africa's National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality is launching a campaign to equalize the age of consent, reports NewsPlanet.

Gay and lesbian sex is not legal until age 19 while straight sex is legal at 16.

A NCGLE spokesman said the discrepancy denies gay and lesbian youth "the right to enjoy romance, courting and sex."

South Africa is the only nation in the world with a ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation in its constitution.

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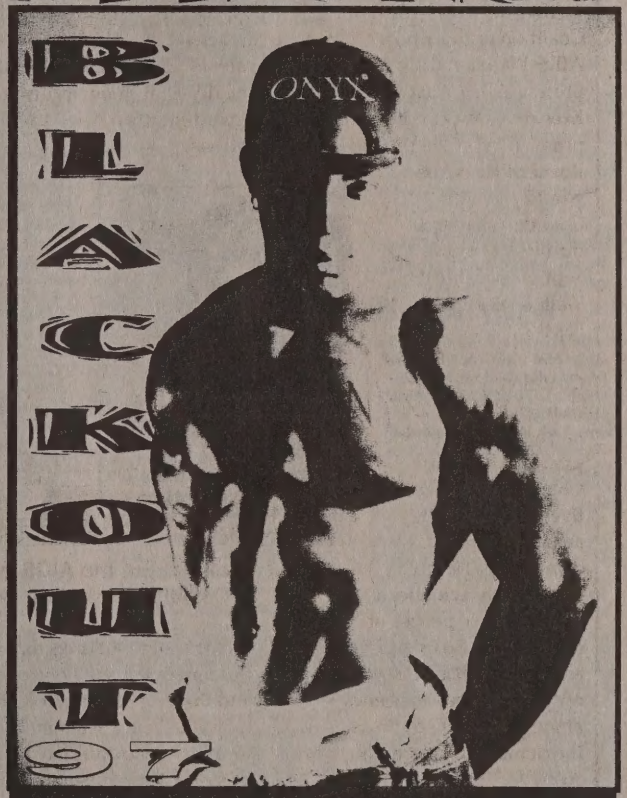


CIRCUIT
3641 N. Halsted
Sunday Oct. 12th
9pm to 2am
11pm Show
$10 at the door
Male Dancers • Go-Go Boys
Drink Specials
Music By Freddie Bain
Call ONYX line 312-329-6141 for other BLACKOUT WEEKEND events. A portion of the proceeds to benefit the Minority Outreach Intervention Project.

CALENDAR

Thursday, Sept. 25

Affinity Lez Chat, every 2nd/4th Thursday. 7-9pm, 6042 S. Indiana. (312) 409-7609. Lesbian/bisexual discussion group with different topics each month.

Chicago Women In Trades Orientation Pre-apprenticeship training program for women interested in high-paying, high-skilled occupations. 5:30-8pm, 220 S Ashland. (312) 942-1444.

Club Escape "Especially for the Stéppers" 1530 E 75th, 8pm-2am. Hostesses Jackie and Kern. $5 cover. Every Thursday!

Paris Dance Les Femmes Amies "Work It Out!" after work & singles party. Paris Dance, 1122 W Montrose. (773) 675-0702.

Unabridged Books Edmund White, signing *Farewell Symphony*, 7:30 p.m., 3251 N. Broadway.

Friday, Sept. 26

Art On Harrison Gallery and Studio Walk, 7pm-10pm. Harrison Street between Ridgeland and Austin in Oak Park. (708) 848-1761. Thru September 27.

Aware Talk Radio HIV Talk Radio Project's 5th anniversary, at Playboy, live jazz by WNUA, awards, etc. (312) 541-8255.

Ballet Folklorico de Mexico, Amalia Hernandez director and choreographer. Auditorium Theater, $15-45. Thru September 28. (312) 902-1500. The Ballet Folklorico de Mexico's dances encompass Mayan and Aztec rituals, dramatic events from Mexico's past, and many cultural facets of Latin American life.

Cafe Voltaire Le Bourgeois Avante-Garde, 9 pm, $10. (773) 665-1238. Relevant, ground-breaking, new way of theater for the gay 90s.

Cell Block "Fetish Fridays" Uniforms with AUA/Chicago Brigade. 3702 North Halsted, (773) 665-8064.

Congregation Or Chadash Shabbat Evening Service led by Jonathan Edelman, Carla Cenker and Rabbi Suzanne Griffel, including Formal Investitutre of Rabbi Griffel and Celebratory Oneg. 8pm. Second Unitarian Church Building between Clark and Broadway on Barry. (773) 248-9456

House Of Blues Koko Taylor.329 N. Dearborn $20. Grammy winning blues singer Taylor releases *Force of Nature.*

Kevin Cole Jazz pianist performs concert honoring George Gershwin's 99th birthday. 1pm, free. Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington. (312) 744-1426.

Janis Ian at Martyr's, 9pm. $15, 21 and over. (312) 559-1212.

Kindred Hearts Women's dinner party at the Fireside Inn, 5739 N. Ravenswood, 7:30 pm. Ask for the "Kindred Hearts" table. New members welcome. (847) 604-0913.

Nancy Wilson Veteran recording star performs live at Krannert Center for Performing Arts, Champaign-Urbana. $17-10. (217) 333-6280.

Paris Dance. Salsa Night. Drink specials, giveaways, good times, 2 for 1 cover before 10pm. Free Salsa lessons 8-9pm. 1122 Montrose, (773) 769-0609.

Progressive Chiropractic Dr. Richard Ezgur donates $10 to AIDS Walk Chicago for every patient seen today. (773) 525-9355 for appointment.

Temptations The Pulsations. 10235 Grand, Franklin Pk (847) 455-0008

Test Positive Aware Positive Links, 7 pm; couples impacted by HIV. Straight Talk, 7 pm; All groups at 1258 W. Belmont. (773) 404-8726.

Unity Temple Screening of "Any Mother's Son," about the gay bashing and brutal murder of Chicago's Allen Schindler. 7:30 PM, 875 Lake Street, Oak Park. (708) 848-6225.

Saturday, Sept. 27

Color Triangle: A Different Look At Racism In Our Community. Town meeting co-sponsored by

Muntu Dance Theatre at DanceAfrica Oct. 24-26.

Lesbigay Radio, Commission on Human Relations, Blacklines/Outlines/En La Vida. At Harold Washington Library, 400 S State. Reserved seats (773) 973-3999. In cooperation with Amigas Latinas, Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays, Clubhouse, Khuli Zaban, Sidetrack, and Women of All Colors/Cultures Together.

Dia De Los Muertos: A Living Tradition. Alejandro Mondragon Arriaga and Elvira Garcia Zinzu from Toluca, Mexico. Thru November 2. Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, 1852 W. 19th. (312) 738-1503

Forcing Bulbs for Beautiful Blooms Chicago Botanic Garden's expert staff conducts workshops on bulb plants. 2pm, Merlo Brand Library, 644 W Belmont. (312) 744-1139.

Fox Valley Gay Association Ellen Meyers, State's Atty Gay and Lesbian Liasion. 8 pm, 1080 Colony Lake Drive, Schaumburg. $2 members, $3 non-members. (847) 884-0299.

Gerber-Hart Booksale. 3352 N Paulina, 12-4. Gerber/Hart was formed in 1981 with a mission of dispelling homophobia through education. Donations happily accepted of unwanted books, CDs, magazines, and videos. (773) 883-3003.

Horizons Youth and Young Adult Drop-In 12-2pm, 961 W Montana. (773) 472-6469.

It's Time, Illinois! Celebrate Evanston Inclusion by spending a festive evening with the Aldermen and Commissioners who passed Illinois' first inclusive Human Rights Ordinance. Carmen's 1012 Church St., Evanston. (708) 535-1506.

MCC of the Incarnation Third anniversary. (630) 341-7077.

Phrasority Special going-away party for Paris Dance and owner Linda Rodgers, Paris, 1122 W. Montrose, (312) 409-6637.

Sunday, Sept. 28

AIDS Walk 8 (312) 422-8200.

Big Chick's Women's spoken word open mic in the Beatchik Gallery at the Big Chick's Salon. Sign up 7:15pm; Free. 5024 N Sheridan. (773) 728-5111.

Paris Dance Country and western dancing featuring bartender Marge Summit. (773) 769-0609.

Rainbow Families For gay and lesbian parents and their children Call (630) 585.3920. E-mail RainbowFam@aol.com.

Womyn Of All Colors and Cultures brunch. (773) 395-1965.

Monday, Sept. 29

Clubhouse Talent show and dance party. Host Flame Monroe and the Midwest's Leading female impersonators and entertainers. 11pm-4am. $5 at door. (773) 880-0469. Convent, 1529 W Armitage.

Fat Lesbians Accepting Our Bodies Discussion and support group meets every Monday. (312) 409-7006 for more info.

Horizons South Side Young Adult Drop In Ages 14-23 6-8pm, every Monday. 3739 S Indiana@37th. (773) 472-6469.

Test Positive Aware Daytimers 10:30 AM, group for people living with HIV. Living Single, 7 pm. Topics: dating, sexual relationships. Per's Peer Bodywork, 7 pm. Exercise and relaxation. Registration required. Transgenesis, 6:00 pm. group for HIV-infected transgendered individuals. All groups at 1258 W. Belmont. (773) 404-8726.

Tuesday, Sept. 30

Cell Block Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Auction. 7:30 pm registration; 8pm auction. David Boyer and Renae Ogletree emcee. 3702 N

Gloria Gaynor autographs copies of her new book, *I Will Survive*, Wed., Oct. 22, at Unabridged Books, 7:30 p.m.

Halsted, (773) 665-8064.

Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network Screening of "All God's Children." 7pm, Conrad Sulzer Library, 4455 N. Lincoln. "All God's Children" is a 27-minute video intended as a pro-gay response by the African American Church to the anti-gay film produced by the Religious Right. (773) 792-4140 for info.

Unity Month Business To Business Reception 5:30-8 pm, Preston Bradley Hall, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington. Commissions Advisory Councils on Africans, Arabs, Gays/Lesbians, Latinos, and Women combine to host a reception in which business people meet their peers from different racial, ethnic, religious groups.

Women and Children First Cris Mazza: *Dog People* and Lily James: *The Great Taste Of Straight People*. Mazza and James, both contributors to the Chick-Lit anthology, celebrate their new books. 5233 N Clark, (773) 769-9299.

Women's Business Development Center "The Business Plan" Harris Bank, 901 E 47th, 5:30-8:30 PM. (312) 853-3477.

WTTW Channel 11 "The Devil Never Sleeps" Chicana filmmaker Lourdes Portillo's tantalizing investigation of the circumstances surrounding the mysterious death of her beloved, wealthy Mexican uncle. 10pm, Channel 11.

Wed., Oct. 1

GLSEN Virtual Town Meeting http://www.gay.com/pages/glaad.html (gay.com)

Thursday, Oct. 2

Club Escape "Especially for the Steppers" 1530 E 75th, 8pm-2am.

Author April Sinclair is at the Women Writers Conference Oct. 17-18, by Guild Complex.

Hostesses Jackie and Kern. $5 cover. Every Thursday!

Paris Dance *La Femmes Amies* Dance til you can't, Battle of the DJs, Laura and Jose. (773) 675-0207. 1122 Montrose.

Unabridged Books Gladys Knight (sans Pips) autographs her new memoir, *Between Each Line of Pain and Glory*. 3251 N Broadway, (773) 883-9119.

Friday, Oct. 3

Coming Out In The Workforce: Whether, When, How Sponsored by Lesbian/Gay Bar Association of Chicago and Gay/Lesbian Physicians of Chicago. 6:30-9pm, 440 N.Wabash, 8th floor. Parking available. (312) 347-7917.

Paris Dance. Salsa Night.

Star Plaza Theatre Nancy Wilson and Joe Williams, performs, (219) 769-6600, (312) 559-1212.

Sat., Oct. 4

ADODI Talent sharing, 6-8:30pm. Share your talent and get to know your ADODI brothers. (312) 458-9584. 1255 S Wabash, Floor #2.

Chicago Jazz Ensemble/Columbia College Chicago Gala concert celebrating the Ensemble's first CD release. Featuring Corky Siegel. Mandel Hall, 1135 E. 57th. 8pm. $20-12. (312) 344-6180.

Gerber-Hart Library Gay poet Ifti Nasim. 7:330pm. 3352 N. Paulina, (773) 883-3003.

Howard Brown Health Center Grand opening of new facility at 4025 N Sheridan. 11:30 am ribbon cutting ceremony with Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley. Free. (773) 871-5777.

Roseland Community Hospital Victim Advocate Program. 6-week, 40-hour training session begins. For persons interested in serving as volunteers in the Victim Advocate Program counseling and supporting survivors of sexual assault. Training includes lectures, film review, role play, and discussion. $10. (773) 995-3096.

Sunday, Oct. 5

Borders Books And Music Performance artist, Tim Miller, author of *Shirts & Skin*. 3pm, 2817 N Clark, (773) 935-3909.

Harriet Tubman Place/ PathFinders HIV/AIDS Prevention Program and the Kuumba Theatre sponsor a benefit performance of the hit play *From the Mississippi Delta*, 2:30 p.m., Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Van Buren, party with cast follows. (773) 626-1443. Tells the story of Ida Mae Holland, who was raped on her 11th birthday in 1955 by a white man who was never held accountable.

Night of 100 Drag Queens *Audition* for Sidetrack benefit. (773) 477-9189.

Tuesday, Oct. 7

Women And Children First Lynn Kanter: *The Mayor Of Heaven*. Kanter reads from her latest novel, centering around a party memorializing and celebrating the life of a woman who recently died of breast cancer. 7:15pm. (773) 769-9299.

Thursday, Oct. 9

33rd Annual Chicago Film Fest Thru Oct.19. (312) 902-1500.

Affinity African-American lesbian discussion group. with Mary Morten and Council. (312) 409-7609.

Club Escape "Especially for the Steppers" 1530 E 75th, 8pm-2am. Hostesses Jackie and Kern. $5 cover. Every Thursday!

Gerber-Hart Library "Racy Thoughts: Fantasies of Color/Fantasies of Whiteness.." Presented by film historian and writer Jose Esteban Munoz at Columbia College. 7pm. 3352 N. Paulina, (773) 883-3003.

LLEGO National Latino/a lesbigay organization El Encuentro Congreso Internacional, Oct. 9-13, San Juan, Puerto Rico, (202) 466-8240

Paris Dance *La Femmes Amies* Steppin at Paris Noir. (773) 675-0207. 1122 Montrose.

Friday, Oct.10

Music Box Theater "Different For Girls." poignant look at the emotional adjustments that a heterosexual male and a transsexual "woman" must make after their accidental reunion years after graduation. 3733 N Southport (773) 871-6604. Thru October 17.

Onyx Leathermen ofr color 2nd year anniversary. Community Night reception and dance party at the Cell Block, 3702 N. Halsted. 8pm-2am. Free. Leather Pit Party, Chicago Eagle, 5015 N Clark, 2am-4am. Free. Total weekend packages available, $50. (312) 329-6141.

YAHIMBA Annual conference for African-American lesbians, "Bridges," Oct. 10-11, 312-409-0276. Workshops 1-5 p.m., entertainment by A Real Read. Keynote speaker Jackie Anderson. 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct 11

Gerber-Hart Library Gay and Lesbian History Panel. 2-4pm. 3352 N. Paulina, (773) 883-3003.

Onyx Leathermen of color 2nd year anniversary. Brunch buffet, Buddies Restaurant and Bar, 3301 N. Clark, 11am-1pm. $7. Leather Worskhops/Forum, Cell Block, 3702 N. Halsted, 2pm-4pm. $5. Leather cocktails/dinner, Coppers at Cell Block, 6pm-9pm, $20. Dungeon/Safe Sex Party, reservations accepted @ (312) 329-6141 or (773) 989-1895, leave name and

phone for location, 9pm-2am, $15. Generator Invasion II, 2am-5am, $5 at door. (312) 329-6141 for info.

National Coming Out Day Urban Outreach Third 5K fundraising run/walk. (773) 244-5572.

Suzanne Westenhoefer at the Vic, 8pm. $16-50. (312) 559-1212.

YAHIMBA Annual conference for African-American lesbians, "Bridges," Oct. 10-11, 312-409-0276. Workshops 1-5 p.m., entertainment by A Real Read, Key note speaker Jackie Anderson. 7 p.m.

Sunday, Oct 12

NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Benefit at Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted. Noon, (773) 907-9700.

Onyx 2nd Year Anniversary. Brunch Buffet, Buddies', 3301 N. Clark, 11am-2pm, $7. Blackout '97 Benefit Leather Dance, Circuit, 3641 N: Halsted, 9pm-2am, $10. Male dancers, DJ Freddie Bain, benefits Minority Outreach Intervention Project. (312) 329-6141.

Wed., Oct. 15

Women And Children First/ Women's Bar Association of Illinois Anita Hill: "Speaking Truth To Power." Hill's only public appearance in Chicago will be held at the Harris Bank Auditorium, 111 W. Monroe. 6:30pm. $30, includes autographed copy of book, available at bookstore. (773) 769-9299.

Thursday, Oct. 16

Paris Dance *La Femmes Amies* Talent Thursday, cash prizes. (773) 675-0207. 1122 Montrose.

Women and Children First Rita Mae Brown: *Rita Will - Memoir of A Literary Rabble Rouser.* 7:30 pm. 5233 Clark, (773) 769-9299.

Gladys Knight autographs copies of her new book, *Between Each Line of Pain and Glory*, Thursday, Oct. 2 at Unabridged Books, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 17

Guild Complex Women Writers Conference 1997, Oct. 17-18, (773) 907-2189. April Sinclair, lesbian writer Minnie Bruce Pratt, Denise Dumahei, Chicago lesbian writer Maureen Seaton, Sharon Solowitz, M. Eliza Hamilton.

October Jazzfest Featuring rare performance by the Count Basie Orchestra. 7pm-9pm and 10pm-1am. Joe's Be Bop Cafe, 700 E. grand, Chicago. (312) 595-5299.

Saturday, Oct. 18

"Growing A Giving Community" Homebuying seminar for Black gays and lesbians. 5954 S Albany, 10am-4pm. Lunch will be provided. Sponsored by Church of the Open Door. (773) 778-3030.

Sunday, Oct. 19

BLACKLINES Subscription Party Corosh, 1072 N. Milwaukee. Admission $12 includes year's subscription to BLACKLINES. 7pm-2am. (312) 243-9609.

Wednesday, Oct. 22

Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. Cultural Center, 78 E Washington, 5:30-7:30pm. Free. Hors d'ouevres will be served.

Jamaica Kincaid autographs copies of her new book, *My Brother, A Memoir*, about her brother's fight with society's pressures against homosexuality, and about his death from AIDS complications, Thursday, Oct. 30 at Women & Children First.

Thursday, Oct. 23

8th Annual Gay Men of Color AIDS Institute, Newark, (415) 356-8134 or (212) 788-4403.

AIDS Alternative Health Project 10th Anniversary Dinner Four Seasons Hotel, N. Michigan Ave., 6 pm. (773) 561-2800.

Paris Dance *La Femmes Amies* Work It Out, (773) 675-0207.

Six years after the Senate Judiciary Committee heard Anita Hill's testimony on Clarence Thomas' proposed appointment to the Supreme Court, Hill has stepped forward once again, this time to tell her own story. Women & Children First and the Women's Bar Assoc. of Illinois are co-sponsoring the event, at Harris Bank, 111 W. Monroe, (773) 769-9299, $30 includes a copy of the book, Wed., Oct. 15.

Friday, Oct. 24

Ameritech Jazz At Symphony Center Series: "Monk On Monk", 8:00 pm. Orchestra Hall. $15-$75. (312) 294-3000.

DanceAfrica Chicago '97. Thru October 26. (773) 989-3310.

Last House On The Block Halloween Masquerade Ball, 6624 S King Dr. 9pm-2AM. $10/$20 at door. (773) 373-0024. Drug free.

Music Box "4 Little Girls," Spike Lee's striking new documentary about the Sept. 15, 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, that killed four Black schoolgirls. 3733 N Southport, (773) 871-6604. Thru Oct. 31.

POZ Life Expo Quality of life consumer fair for people with HIV/AIDS Oct. 24-25 at Navy Pier; exhibits of newest health products and services. (212) 242-2163. Or (800) 243-9774 for booth info.

Saturday, Oct. 25

kd lang at Rosemont (312) 559-1212

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children Artemis Singers/Bread & Roses Chorus. 7:30pm. (773) 973-9934.

Thursday, Oct. 30

Women and Children First Jamaica Kinkaid: *My Brother, A Memoir.* Internationally reknowned writer Kinkaid reads from her memoir to her brother, who died from AIDS in 1996 at age 33. 7:30pm. 5233 N Clark, (773) 769-9299.

Paris Dance *La Femmes Amies* Halloween Party, free gift to 1st 25 in costume before 10p, cash prize best costume. (773) 675-0207.

FUTURE:

Nov. 14: *Watermelon Woman.* Black lesbian filmmaker Cheryl Dunye's wonderful film opens for a one-week run at the Music Box (773) 871-6604.

April 4-5: Unity Conference IV by CBLG, (312) 409-4917.

PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV NEEDED FOR IMPORTANT NEW CLINICAL TRIALS.

DuPont Merck is seeking HIV+ people to participate in two major clinical trials using DMP 266:

- A trial using DMP 266, indinavir, AZT and 3TC
- A trial using DMP 266 and indinavir with nucleoside analogs

To participate, patients must:

- Be HIV+ with a CD_4 count ≥ 50
- Be between 13-60 years of age
- Have no prior treatment with protease inhibitors

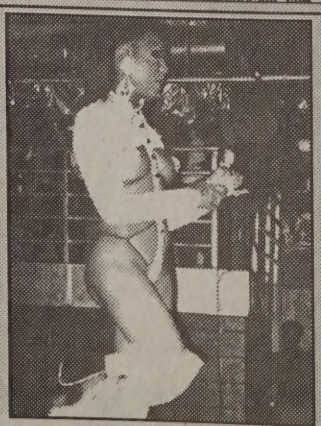
For more information about DMP 266, please contact DuPont Merck at (800) 870-8899 or http://www.dupontmerck.com.

The Three pics along the left side are from the recent Festival of African American Foods in Oak Park, organized by Jim Boushay and Ricky Sain. TOP, LEFT: Chris, Lewis and Carl. MIDDLE: Jim Boushay, Beth Swaggerty and Ricky Sain. BELOW: Carol James, an artist at the fest. Pics by Israel Wright. TOP, MIDDLE: Mike, Terry, Brian, Loreneo and Luis at the Chuck Renslow Family annual White Party. Photo by Rory Tanksley. RIGHT: Les Brown during a recent Chicago appearance. Photo by Rosalind Glanton

HOT PICS

RIGHT: Some of the guys at a recent Men of All Colors Together brunch. TOP: Norbert Young, Tim West, Les Everett, Preston Schumaker, Ed Fleming, Kevin Rooker, Ed Gregg (front). BELOW: Carl Offutt, Preston, Norbert, Ed, and Kevin. Pics: Israel Wright

STARDUST

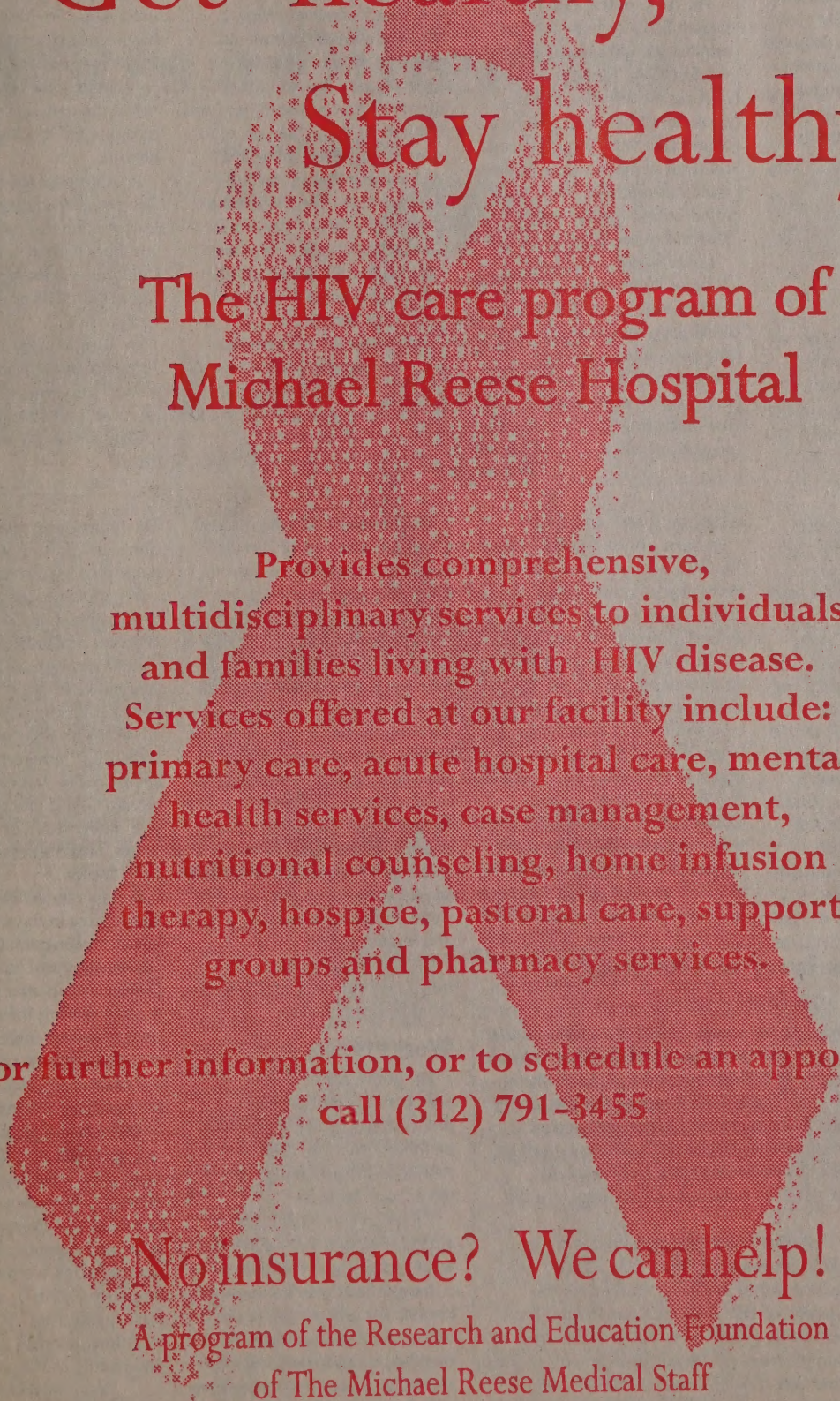


StarDust is now Monday nights at Convent. Pictured are entertainers at the opening night, from left: Amailia Black, Indigo Blue, and a humpy dancer.

Photos by Israel Wright

Get healthy, Stay healthy

The HIV care program of Michael Reese Hospital



Provides comprehensive, multidisciplinary services to individuals and families living with HIV disease. Services offered at our facility include: primary care, acute hospital care, mental health services, case management, nutritional counseling, home infusion therapy, hospice, pastoral care, support groups and pharmacy services.

For further information, or to schedule an appointment, call (312) 791-3455

No insurance? We can help!

A program of the Research and Education Foundation of The Michael Reese Medical Staff

A Ryan White care act funded agency

NEWS from 16

(Idlers) are Heroes," will be at the Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State Street. The lecture is free; (312) 422 - 5585 x230.

Women Employed has received a $50,000 Sara Lee Foundation Chicago Spirit Award. Women Employed programs range from providing career opportunities for disadvantaged teen girls and helping low-income mothers leave welfare to enabling women to enter traditionally male-dominated fields and make career transitions.

National Briefs

The National Task Force on AIDS prevention, a minority organization focusing on the needs of gay and bisexual men of color, hosts their 8th annual Gay Men of Color AIDS Institute, in Newark New Jersey Oct. 23-27. Call (415) 356 - 8134.

BILLBOARD magazine reports that "Gay bashing, domestic violence, and the AIDS crisis are among the social issues that Janet Jackson addresses on *The Velvet Rope*, her seventh album, due worldwide Oct. 7. Janet said: "In the past, I've always found a way to not have to face the pain I've experienced growing up; I would brush it aside and keep going. But I'm at a point now where self-discovery has become important, and this album is kind of like a self-examination." The song "Free Xone" (*zone*) addresses the fear and misery that homophobia can cause in the gay community, BILLBOARD said.

History will be made on Dec. 10, 1997, when the Rev. Troy D. Perry, internationally known religious leader and gay-rights activist, meets with the Most Rev. Dr. Desmond Tutu, Anglican Archbishop Emeritus of Capetown, South Africa and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Perry is founder and moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), the world's largest Christian denomination with a primary ministry to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons.

The meeting will take place in Cape Town as part of Perry's South African speaking tour to UFMCC congregations, gay-friendly churches and human rights organizations.

Tutu, a long-time anti-apartheid activist, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his commitment to human rights. In 1995, he was appointed by President Nelson Mandela to the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, an organization seeking to bring racial, political and spiritual healing to South Africa. He has also come out strongly in favor of gay and lesbian rights.

UFMCC's website is http://www.ufmcc.com, e-mail at info@ufmcchq.com

Battle of King's true legacy

The head of the nation's largest Black lesbian and gay organization has challenged Alveda King, founder and CEO of King for America, to come clean about her organization's connection with the white radical right wing and sharply criticized her organization for misrepresenting the views of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Keith Boykin, the executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, accused King for America of being "willingly manipulated by the white religious right that wants to divide the Black community based on sexual orientation." Boykin said that King's words are being "bought and paid for by right-wing zealots of the religious right."

Boykin's remarks follow a series of anti-gay comments made by Alveda King during media appearances in the past month. King compared gays and lesbians to "liars, thieves, murderers [and] child molesters" and warned that protecting homosexuals from discrimination would "give a death sentence to civil rights." She also claimed that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would have opposed gay-rights legislation.

Boykin spoke with Alveda King by phone and reminded her that discrimination against gays and lesbians is still legal in 39 of the 50 U.S. states.

"Alveda King is simply trying to cash in on her uncle's name, and she ought to be ashamed of herself for doing so," Boykin said. He also noted that Coretta Scott King, Dr. King's widow, has been very supportive of civil rights for gays and lesbians, "and I think she would know better than anyone the true meaning of Dr. King's dream," he said.

In addition, Dr. Joseph Lowery, who succeeded Martin Luther King as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, has supported civil rights laws that protect lesbians and gays.

Dr. King himself warned that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," and one of his closest advisers, Bayard Rustin, was a gay man, Boykin noted.

'Ellen' and 'Miss Evers' win Emmys, but is Tuskegee era really over?

While **Ellen DeGeneres** won an Emmy Award for writing of the show's now-famous "Puppy" lesbian episode, HBO's *Miss Evers' Boys*, based on the true story of Tuskegee syphilis study of Black men, won three awards— best made-for-TV movie, the President's Award for socially worthwhile programming, and best actress award for Alfre Woodard. Laurence Fishburne, executive producer of *Miss Evers*, honored the Tuskegee survivors and President Clinton, "who had the decency to make a moral apology" for the experiments.

But ironically, a new "Tuskegee"-type of experiment is being funded overseas by the U.S. government. More than 12,000 pregnant women in places such as Africa are being studied for the impact of AZT in transmission of HIV from mothers to their fetuses. Some of the women are being given lower doses of the drug, and some have been given placebos. There has been an outcry from scientists and activists, and Sen. Carol Moseley Braun has also condemned the study.

World News

The South Africa Police Services Gay and Lesbian Network has grown to over 300 members, says Sgt. Dennis Adriao in Johannesburg, one of the group's leaders.

The High Court of South Africa's Western Cape province legalized gay sex recently. Although South Africa recently became the only nation in the world to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation via its constitution, many older laws still discriminate against gays. The judges cited the constitution's gay protections along with its privacy guarantees.

In contrast to previous years, the organization Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe got to distribute literature at this year's Zimbabwe International Book Fair (ZIBF) Aug. 1-9— but not at a booth with their name on it. Instead, a "human-rights" booth sponsored by fair organizers offered GALZ pamphlets along with information on women's issues, universities and a host of other topics.

Sixteen people were killed in late August in days of rioting at Jamaica's Kingston General Penitentiary and St. Catherine District Prison after guards walked out to protest Corrections Commissioner John Prescod's plan to distribute condoms to guards and inmates. Both groups blamed their actions on anger over the implication that they engage in gay sex. Eleven of the dead were killed by fellow inmates who believed they were homosexuals. Prescod initially said "no inference should be drawn to link wardens to homosexuality within or outside of their institutions" but he later withdrew his plan as the walkout and rioting continued.

Also contributing: Tracy Baim
World briefs by Rex Wockner

Roseland's AIDS Unit Makes a Difference

by Jon Dallas

Caring for people at Roseland Community Hospital is what Dr. Sherry Luck knows best. An MD in internal medicine since 1992, Luck has witnessed early in her career the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS. She can relate better than other doctors because of first-hand experience—her brother died of AIDS complications in 1993.

Through this experience, Luck became aware of the difficulty of caring for a patient with AIDS. The shortage of services available for African-Americans on the Far South Side of Chicago proved to be a major obstacle.

This situation prompted Luck to do an evaluation of the care given AIDS patients in other parts of the city. Luck found that the hospitals servicing a large number of AIDS patients had dedicated AIDS units and a multidisciplinary team approach. This inspired Luck to do likewise at Roseland.

Initial planning involved a few key administrative personnel. This committee evolved to become the AIDS Task Force. During the planning phase, the Task Force trained the entire hospital staff to reduce the likelihood of an AIDS patient being treated badly. Roseland employees responded positively and commented on how the training had changed their view of people with AIDS.

The result was Roseland's AIDS Unit 3 West, a minority-based community agency servicing the Far South Side of Chicago, at 45 West 111th Street. Unit 3 West opened its doors on March 22, 1995 and is dedicated to caring for people with HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Sherry Luck

Why a special clinic for People With AIDS?

PWA's have unique problems that go beyond the medical aspects of the disease. The social stigma alone attached to the disease frequently causes those affected to lose or lack support from their families and friends, which they sorely need. Even when this support exists, the enormous demands of the disease can create burdens beyond what the patient and family can handle.

Having a special unit with a multidisciplinary team allows for anticipation of needs before they occur and provides for coordination of efforts focused on meeting such needs.
The AIDS Unit 3 West has a caring, professional, non-judgmental staff dedicated to excellence. When a person has AIDS the whole community is impacted. Unit 3 West is Roseland's response to a dire need in the Black community. Prior to establishing this Clinic, a comprehensive program to address the needs of PWA's on the Far South Side of Chicago did not exist.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS, is believed to be caused by HIV, which attacks and severely weakens an important part of the immune system. Acquired means that the disease is not inherited or genetic; it is known to be caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Immune refers to the body's natural protection against infection and disease. It is the part of the body that HIV primarily affects. Deficiency refers to the defect in the immune system created by the HIV. Syndrome means that AIDS does not result in a single disease or illness. The symptoms that define AIDS encompass more than 20 diseases or states.

During 1994, Roseland admitted 42 patients diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Another 17 patients were diagnosed and treated on an outpatient basis. Of the 42 admissions, 41 were African-American (1 caucasian) ranging in age from 26 to 65 with an average age of 39 years old. Relative to HIV+ diagnoses, data is collected semi-annually. For the first half of 1994, Roseland had 29 inpatients who tested HIV+ (including one newborn); there were five emergency room cases. For the second half of 1994, there were 13 inpatients and 12 emergency room cases seen. Since the AIDS Unit 3 West had not previously been identified as a community resource for HIV/AIDS services, these figures are expected to increase dramatically in the near future.

Unit 3 West provides a complete picture of AIDS as well as transmission and prevention methods. Some of the services that 3 West offers include:

- ▼ Competent professional work force.
- ▼ Support group to deal with depression, anxiety and general support.
- ▼ Dietary assessments.
- ▼ Needs assessment through social services guidelines.
- ▼ Pastoral Care.
- ▼ Promoting wellness and health through innovative programs.
- ▼ Providing medical care to patients regardless of race, sex, creed or social status

In addition to the inpatient component, the HIV/AIDS Outpatient Clinic is available to provide comprehensive treatment to patients. Located on the third floor in the Hospital Professional Building, the aim of the outpatient clinic is to keep patients healthy and out of the hospital. The clinic also allows patients to receive care in the community without having to travel for services.

Roseland Community Hospital recognizes the unique requirements inherent in the provisions of inner-city health services.

Unit 3 West accepts all patients who are HIV-positive and desire healthcare. If you or someone you know fits this description, contact Roseland Community Hospital at (773) 995-3469.

ARTS & THEATRE

NOTICES

David Aden Gallery and FotoFactory Press accepting documentary or fine art photos of men in or out of uniforms of any kind for anthology. B&W or color 8'x10" prints or slides. Name and photo title on each. SASE for return. By Nov 1. FotoFactory Press, 350 Sunset Ave. #4, Venice, CA 90291.

Submissions for an anthology by and on the lives of Black gay men, all ages-older encouraged; stories, poems, essays, or personal histories. Deadline Jan. 30, 1998. Under 3000 words, no minimum. Mail to R. Ball/D. Robinson, 3540 N. Southport Ave. #329, Chicago, 60657-1436 or E-mail at dnrobins@midway,uchicago,edu.

THEATRE

OPENINGS

September 24: **The Food Chain** A call to a crisis hotline brings a gorgeous underwear model and a pleasure-seeking paramour who tips the scales at 300 pounds into a wild 'n' crazy adventure, Candlelight Dinner Playhouse, thru Dec. 21, (708) 496-3000.

October 1: **Midwest Side Story** John McGiver's autobiographical one-man show about homosexuality, family, religion, addiction and recovery. North Central College, Naperville, tix at door, info at (630) 637-5400.

October 12: **Blue Man Group.** Cobalt-blue Blue Man is a curious gentle being from inner space who wants to "blesh" with the audience through sound, color, physical stunts, visual gags, art commentary, audience participation and all out sensory assault. Briar Street Thtr, thru Oct. 26 (773) 348-4000.

October 17: **Lillian** David Cale presents seven years in the life of a shy woman, Lillian. Goodman Studio, thru Nov. 16.

IN PERFORMANCE

At That Time Lisa Buscani, acclaimed solo performer, returns to Chicago to knock us all out with her intense tales about car crashes, AIDS, weddings, divorces and the various moments that just happen to shape a lifetime. Live Bait, thru Sept. 28, (773) 871-1212.

The Club, Gary Kirst directs Madrid St. Angelo's black comedy. Daisy Mae plays an HIV+ drag queen who opens heart and apartment to four hot young men for 'tears, T-cells, and sympathy.' Captures the essence of living in a positive world as told by a writer who has been positive for more than a decade. Bailiwick Arts Center thru Oct. 12 (773) 883-1090

Dirty Little Show Tunes, Tom Orr's hilarious musical review parodies musicals, musical styles, and musical performers in San Francisco and Seattle. Bailiwick thru Nov. 9. (773) 883-1090.

El Paso Blue Set in Tejas, a lyrical, Oedipal Western featuring an innocent Latino ex-con, his blonde siren/wife, and the pandering dad, Next Thtr, thru Oct. 18, (847) 475-6763.

Equus Peter Shaffer's classic about sexuality, identity, and the consequence of repression. With deaf and hearing actors. Bailiwick, thru Oct. 19. (773) 883-1090.

The Iphigenia Cycle, including Iphigenia at Aulis and Iphigenia in Taurus, has renowned director JoAnne Akalaitis' interpretation of Euripides' epic of the Trojan War, Court Thtr, thru Oct. 5, (773) 753-4472.

Kaddish For Allen Ginsberg A weaving together of the poet's works into an evening of drama and remembrance, Streetsigns, Eclipse (773) 296-1875.

Mister Roberts Considered one of the "greatest of war plays," Heggen and Logan's comedy tells about the boredom and bravery of men fighting for freedom and meaning, The Firehouse, thru Oct.18, (773) 281-0022.

Mr. Nanny Vicki Quade introduces her new show starring Second City's Jimmy Doyle as a parent for the 90s and beyond, finding purpose and finding family by being– Mr. Nanny! Bailiwick, $15. (773) 883-1090.

Night Of The Blue Rider SexFest (312) 733-4668.

A Red Death Walter Mosley's "natural born existentialist" street smart detective Easy Rawlins hits the stage in this Chicago Theatre Company adaptation, thru Nov. 9, (773) 493-5360.

Short Plays, staged readings of a ***Wife's Tale; Good Girl, Cat, The Cool Down, God Told Me; Commission;*** **and** ***He Said, She Said.*** Chicago Dramatists Workshop, 1105 W. Chicago Ave. $3, (312) 633-0630

DANCE

October 14:Tango X 2 Theatrical blend of dance and music created by Miguel Angel Zotto and Milena Plebs, two of Argentina's most celebrated dancers and stars of the Broadway hit, *Tango Argentino*. Shubert (312) 902-1500.

October 22: **Dance Chicago '97,** 300 dance and performance artists in ten programs. Up to eleven different companies in each. Thru Nov. 30, Athenaeum Thtr, $15 (except River North Dance Co., Nov7, 8, 14, 15 and 16 , $20-25, and *Dance for Kids. Too!*, several dates) Tix at Ticketmaster, info at (773) 935-6860.

October 24: **DanceAfrica Chicago '97** Dance Center Columbia College Chicago's 7th annual festival celebrates *Caribbean Connections*, tracing ties between African and Caribbean dance traditions, the origins of calypso, a dynamic, torso-centered movement created by African slaves en route to the Caribbean. Performances, lecture-demonstrations and master classes showcasing the country's most renowned troups and choreographers culminate with four performances Oct. 24-26, Medinah Temple, 600 N. Wabash Ave. Dance Africa 97 features *Garth Fagan Dance*, founded in the Caribbean; *Marie Brooks Pan-Caribbean Dancers*, founded in the French West Indies; *Sundance Productions*, Chicago-based African, Caribbean, jazz, modern, tap, and the vision of Barbados-born founder and artistic director Danny Diallo Hinds; *Najwa Dance Corps*, recreating the festival, market place, voodoo ritual, and Island Life through dance and live music. Najwa, founder, will perform a selection of works from Senegal, West Africa. Also featuring the *Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago*, celebrating the human sprit through African and African American dance, with artistic director, Amaniyea Payne, who has established herself as one of the country's most distinguished choreographers in cultural dance. The *Tribune Family Matinee* on Saturday adds a performance and provides a chance to meet performers. A Marketplace with food, clothing and craft items, free and open to the public 6pm to 11pm, Friday, Oct. 24; noon to 11pm, Saturday, Oct. 25; and noon to 7pm, Sunday, Oct. 26. Info and tix, (773) 989-3310 or Ticketmaster.

ART/PHOTO

Aldo Castillo Gallery Check out the first outdoor mural ever created in the heart of the Chicago gallery district, Oscar Romero's *Mother Nature's Spirit of the Great Lakes*, located on the back of the building at 233 West Huron; it can be seen from Franklin Avenue and Erie Street (312) 337-2536.

Anatomically Correct Gallery and Bailiwick Arts Center *Horsin' Around*, etchings/drypoint and lithographs of horses by Carol Kaeser Taylor and hand-carved wooden horses by Pete Nemee, opening reception, thru Nov. 14. (312) 514-1802.

Art Institute of Chicago *In Their Own Right: Images of African Americans* from the Art Institute collection, opens Sept. 27; (312) 443-3703

Beacon Street Gallery and Theatre Two cultural heritage exhibitions by internationally-recognized and award-winning artists: Carlos Cortez, "Our History is in Our Hands," a mural depicting Chicago's labor History; and Eugene Pine, paintings that blend traditional and contemporary native-American Culture. Thru Oct. 23 Beacon Street Gallery and Thtr at Truman College, O'Rourke Center (773) 769-4284

Chicago Public Library *From Fireside to Field: Women and the Civil War*, viewers will learn how the war affected the lives of women, black and white, young and old, giving them the chance to stretch gender boundaries and take on new roles and express themselves with increasing freedom, (312) 747-4889.

The Dusable Museum of African American History *"Amistad"* In 1839, on the Spanish slave ship LaAmistad, 39 African captives, led by Cinque, rebelled and were captured off the Eastern seaboard after failing in a desperate attempt to return home. A civil rights battle then continued for two years in prisons, town greens, the courtrooms of Connecticut and the Supreme Court. The display begins in the Mende (African) village, and includes the capture, revolt, trial and return. Ship records, graphics, maps, reproductions of correspondence are part of the 5,000 sq. ft interactive exhibit. Simulated dock pilings hold telephones which narrate the story, Nov. 18 thru June 30, 1998. *Harold Washington in* permanent exhibit, (312) 947-0600.

Friends of the Arts *An Evening With Art*, hands-on heme, textual, audio, mask imagery, digit manipulated performance art and iconic pop culture. Oct. 12. Cornelia Arts Building, (773) 935-1854

Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, *Dia De Muertos, A Living Tradition*, Reception Sept. 26, celebration thru Dec. 7. 1852 W. 19th, 738-1503

Woman Made Gallery Woman Made Gallery, 1900 S. Prairie. *Making Waves*, art by women and men who are social radicals, looking at police brutality, AIDS and racism. Reception Oct. 3, show thru 24; (312) 328-0038

Yamada Art Center *Faces of Races*, colorful and powerful portrait paintings of spectacularly dressed New Orleans Mardi Gras Indians (descendent of African Black Slaves and American Native Indians). Videos of the Indians and costumes also featured, thru Oct. 18. (312) 243-0032.

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Up On It

Music reviews by J.

Brownstone — *Still Climbing* (MJJ Music)

On 1994's *From The Bottom Up*, Brownstone displayed enough talent to bury the hoards of R&B girl groups. That coup will have to wait as nothing on Bottom is nearly as engaging as their underachieving first single "5 Miles To Empty." By the time you hear the pleasant tunes "Around You" and "Revenge," Brownstone's unimaginative arrangements, lyrics and trademark trio-as-choir sound (are they screaming on "Kiss And Tell?") have grown tiresome. What's worse, is they brag that their cover of "If You Play Your Cards Right" is better than the original (as if!). More evidence that good looks and capable voices aren't enough to make it to the top.

Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott — *Supa Dupa Fly* (EastWest)

The video for "I Can't Stand The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)" was just the beginning. Together with partner-in-crime Timbaland, Missy has crafted an infectious alternative rap creation. Strong R&B melodies, heavy hip hop beats and cameos by Busta Rhymes, Lil' Kim, Da Brat, Ginuwine, Aaliyah, etc. provide the basis for this pivotal release. Missy's writing is inventive, if somewhat obtuse ("I feel the wind/Five, six, seven/Eight, nine, ten") and rounds it all off by singing better than the acts she produces (SWV, 702). And she knows it. ("Me and Timbaland/Our style so superb/Have you heard/Have you heard"). Perfect for bringing together those who like rap, and those who don't.

Joe — *All That I Am* (Jive)

Lovers of "All The Things (Your Man Won't Do)" are aware of Joe's ability to create songs that stay with you. Although his debut (1993's *Everything*) barely made a dent, *All* promises to "blow up." This 24-year-old singer/songwriter/producer exposes vulnerability and delivers the essence of old school crooning without covering Isley tunes (R. Kelly are you paying attention?). Where Keith Sweat wines, Joe pleads sincerely for understanding. His proficient melodies make it difficult not to replay "Good Girls" and "How Soon" the first time you hear them. And the flawless, guitar-driven title song is one of the most romantic songs I've heard. But Joe insists that he's just "trying to broaden the music's perspective on love and relationships." Ooh baby.

Crystal Waters — *Crystal Waters* (Mercury)

From the familiar, initial beats of "Momma Told Me" it's evident that Waters is on a mission with her third release. Sparked, perhaps, by the lackluster response from her daring, diversified *Storyteller*, Crystal is packed with more nursery rhymes-cum-club-hugging ditties. Waters, along with veteran club producers Basement Boys, construct a musical environment which defies remixing. Intent on reviving song-oriented house music are "Love I Found" (featuring the New Jersey Mass Choir) "Let Go My Love" and "Body Music," produced by Dallas Austin (and reproduced and mixed by Waters). From beginning to end, Waters commands attention. You even have to admire her bold cover of Prince's "Uptown," though it doesn't quite work.

Mariah's "Honey": Ms. Sony acts, swims, dances and jetskis, all in stiletto pumps. Who said breaking up is hard to do?

Club Escape: More Than A Box To Dance

by J.

Some things are just meant to be.

In March of this year, Lawrence Johnson, along with Arthur Coleman, and Franklin Dean (LAF Productions) began hosting Wednesday night parties at Baby O's in Chicago's South Shore community. As the parties became more successful, the former managers wanted more of the action. LAF conceded originally, but soon started to pull back on their party-throwing efforts.

"I felt like we were being taken advantage of," says friendly Johnson, 33.

It didn't take long for Baby O's to suffer from LAF's reduced participation.. After a few fateful events, the building's owner approached Johnson and crew with an offer. They accepted, renaming the spot Club Escape.

Now that the ink is drying on the agreement, Escape's owner/manager Johnson can concentrate on creating a "quality club" with "more atmosphere," something he feels strongly about.

"A lot of gay, Black clubs ... throughout the United States give you the basics. Just the music and a box for you to dance in. We want to give the Black, gay community something that they can be proud of."

Johnson doesn't think they have to knock down the other popular hangouts to acheive his vision, either. Because Escape is located so close to South Shore's mainstay, Jeffrey Pub, the staff is sometimes asked if they want to put the Pub out of business. Johnson's answer is a quick "No." He believes the Black, gay community can sustain both places.

So far, so good. Word of mouth is building a steady clientele, especially on Wednesday nights, when Escape showcases male exotic dancers. His staff greets customers as they arrive and checks on them as they leave the club. And on any night, you can spot the surprisingly accessible Johnson personally attending to patrons. It's not uncommon for Escape to serve food (like all traditional, Black bars do). And when the weather permits, the semi-private backyard/patio is open, allowing patrons to sociaslize under the stars. There's also plans for indoor and outdoor security and possibly memberships.

"We're not really used to that [genuine gratitude and quality] in Chicago in terms of a Black bar because, basically, we don't have any," he comments. With its modest size (150-200 capacity), and Johnson's personal attention, it shouldn't take long for Club Escape to build its own sense of community.

Club Escape, 1530 E. 75th St., (773) 667-6454, Sunday-Friday: 12:30 p.m.-2: a.m.; Saturday: 12:30 p.m.-3 a.m.

Sundays: Afternoon Bid Whist; Mondays: "Blue Monday," Food & Cards; Wednesdays: the popular Male Exotic Dancers; Thursdays: Steppers Set (men and women); Fridays & Saturdays: House music by veteran DJ Tyrone Mixx

Hip Hop Compilation due

On Oct. 28, Rhino Records drops a new three-part rap series, ***Beats & Rhymes: Hip Hop of the '90s, Parts 1, 2, & 3,*** the most diverse compilation to document the second wave of the ever-changing rap revolution.

During the first wave of rap, artists such as The Sugar Hill Gang, Kurtis Blow, and Grandmaster Flash & The Furious Five laid the groundwork for the future generations of hip hop culture. The years highlighted on this series—1990-1992—are the time when hip hop was transformed from a national phenomenon into a heavily commercialized world music.

A Tribe Called Quest, Heavy D, Digital Underground, and Naughty By Nature were among the first rap artists to score true commercial radio hits, and thus were the driving force pushing rap into the mainstream. Songs such as "Scenario" (A Tribe Called Quest), "I Get The Job Done" (Big Daddy Kane), "No Nose Job" (Digital Underground), or "Summertime" (DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince), document rap's journey and are examples of the most lighthearted days of rap, when it wasn't about intercoastal battles, it wasn't about hype, it was just about the music.

CONCERTS: *SCENE & HEARD*

by Jano

Rachelle Ferrell, House Of Blues Aug. 18: "Of all the places you could have been tonight you chose to come here," said Rachelle Ferrell appreciatively to her audience. The anxious crowd forgot about the long wait and the smokers, as requested, did not smoke. Ferrell turned the House of Blues into a house of worship; at times it was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. At other times, the call and response and testimonials from the fans who sang along had the place rollicking.

She sang with her drum/bass/piano band. She played piano for herself; she sang *a capella*. This no-frills artist continuously connected the bridges of musical generations and genres. Her "Funny Valentine" was as unique as her thumb print. It received as big of a response as her R&B signature song, "With Open Arms." For her big finish, did she sing "Bye-Bye Blackbirds"? No. This did not sound like something Buddy and Sally sang at one of Rob and Laura Petrie's parties. It was the same song but this jazzed-up, hip-hop, and soul version had six parts. The audience sang five of them (which she so patiently taught) and there was her part. After the show, as people retrieved their cars up to five blocks away, you could still hear singing.

Rashaan Patterson, Park West Sept. 3: Over the past few weeks, Tom Joyner and the crew have been gushing over Rashaan Patterson's self-titled debut CD. This singer-songwriter opened for MeShell Ndegeocello when she was here in June and even sang back-up for her. His thin body can push out notes so powerful it seems he might topple over. His band, this night at the Park West (including the backup singers) was extremely tight. "Spend the Night," "Come Over" and "Where You Are," the singles from the CD, like the other songs, were musically great; vocally, they were a real big disappointment. He let the band lead him through the songs while the backup singers carried the melody. He would start the songs, then drop out (as if to say, "You get the picture"), then come back with some "Yeahs" and "Ohs." His beautiful voice was continuously medicated with cigarettes and brown liquid, from a glass. Fortunately, most of the crowd seems to have had the CD and let the *idea* of his talent fill in the gaping holes. They soon warmed up and began to dance. However, when it was time to cheer him back onstage for the encore, many verbally questioned whether he could actually *make* it back. Great CD, disappointing show.

REVIEWS

by Harry Tyner, Jr.

Adina Howard — *Welcome To Fantasy Island* (Elektra)

Back with her long-awaited sophomore debut, Adina Howard exposes us to an even more in-depth look into the freak we all have come to know. Breaking out in 1995 with her gold album, *Do You Wanna Ride,* which featured the single, "Freak Like Me," which redefined the boundaries for female singers, she continues to explore the fierce explorations of sexuality with streetwise funk and sultry ballads, delivering it all with the finesse of a veteran.

From the opening of her intro, "Welcome To My Queendom," Adina invites us into her world of sexual temptations and sensual needs, which is definitely evident on tracks like "(Freak) And You Know It," "Crank Me Up" and "Sexual Needs."

Other highlights on the album include "I'll Be Damned If I Apologize" which she duets with k-Ci Haley of Jodeci, "Personal Freak" featuring Bizzy Bone of Bone, Thugs & harmony and the playful "T-Shirt & Panties," co-written by comedian Jamie Foxx. This is an album full of sexual content that is for adults only and should not be exposed to young children. So, keep it in the bedroom, relax and enjoy the ride!

BoogieMonsters — *God Sound* (EMI)

Mondo and Vex, the co-conspirators in seditious and inspiring musicianship, who together form the itinerant hip hop duo BoogieMonsters, weave through biblical sensibilities, pre-millennium precariousness and an inquisitive nature of the state of the global community within the hip hop on this their sophomore effort. Here the two try to bring what's missing in most rap music today. Positive lyrics overlayed with laidback hip hop funk and a message that people can relate to, instead of hearing of how high one can get or sticking up *so and so.*

The outstanding tracks that capture your attention are "Hot Water in the Wilderness," featuring the spoken poetry of Tysha, "Say Word" featuring Philly poetess, Bahamadia and "Whistles in the Wind."

Although I was not totally impressed from beginning to end, the effort is nice.

Mario Winans — *Story of My Life* (Motown)

As a long-time writer, producer and performer of such artists as R. Kelly and Tamia, 22-year-old Mario Winans presents us with his solo debut of R&B music filled with catchy hooks and rhythms, accompanied by meaningful, emotional lyrics.

Dealing with matters of the heart, Winans embraces eternal concepts of devout spiritual love, counterbalanced by passionate elements of romantic sensuality. Tracks such as "Come Back Home" deal with the ups and downs of relationships and "Love Man," a soliloquy of promised friendship, as much as it is a poem of romantic love.

Coming from a gospel influenced family, his parents being gospel artists, Marvin & Vicki Winans, his delving into 'love songs' didn't sit too well. "But as long as its not offensive, " he says, "they are behind me." Highlights on the album include "Every Now and Then," "Love Is in the Air" and the hip hop remix of "Don't Know" featuring guest rapper, Mase. "Story Of My Life" paints a picture of personal concepts of love that embodies positive spirituality, romance and a commitment of love to God.

Marvin Tate's D-Settlement

What do you get when you cross raw, urban blues, spoken over a phat, funk-infested groove? You've got Marvin Tate and his band, D-Settlement, buggin' in your ear and your mind on a trip through the ghettos of America.

I had the pleasure to catch this amazing teacher and poet at the Guild Complex Chopin Theatre Aug. 20. Marvin's outspoken, in-your-face true grit performance was clearly evident while demanding Commonwealth Edison to "Turn Dah Fuckin' Lights Back On," "Color Blind Society," and "Who Sold Soul?"

Bold, direct and hip are Tate's views of everyday life from New York to Hollywood to the gentrification of Chicago. These analogies and more can be found in his book, *Schoolyard of Broken Dreams,* courtesy of Guild, 1541 W. Division. Special Thanks to Michael Warr for his assistance.

Shades (Motown Records)

From a label significant for presenting us with talented and beautiful girl groups comes another great combination of four talented ladies collectively known as Shades. Danielle, Monique, Shannon and Tiffanie continue to express that quality with their debut album, full of songs on love and relationships. Their hit single, "Tell Me (I'll Be Around)," climbed to No. 19 on the Billboard pop charts.

Just listen as their harmonious vocals blend on tracks "Every Time I Think of You," "What Would You Do," and the remix of "I Believe," featuring the dynamic rap vocals of Aquil Davidson and Nutta Butta. My only disappointments were the remakes of the Bee Gees classic "How Deep Is Your Love" and DeBarge's "Time Will Reveal." They didn't attack these tracks as I was anticipating, but the album's other six tracks make up for that in the long run.

The HYPE in Coming Out

National Coming Out Day Oct. 11

by Sherri Jackson

Coming out of the closet takes personal courage. Those who have come out of the closet know that it takes personal growth to do so satisfactorily. The coming out journey never ends. Everyday that we come out, we become stronger individuals in revealing our true selves.

I recall two distinct instances of coming out in my life. One instance was during my marriage, when my ex-husband asked if I was gay. It was a time when I was in extreme denial, but also a point in my life I no longer could be in denial for my own personal satisfaction. A second phase to coming out was later at age 27 when I left my marriage to be the individual I so much desired. I didn't want to remain in a marriage living a lie pretending to be happy because my family and society said it was the proper thing to be and have. I wanted a life of being open with myself, to love whomever I chose as a partner, but letting her be a woman. I wished for marriage, children, and the house, but no longer with a man. Ever since, I've been free with myself.

The hype in coming out that one hears from lesbian and gay activists is not overrated. I take pride in the actions of the grassroots gay and lesbian activists who tackle political issues, racial, institutional, economic prejudices, and continued homophobia that impede our hopes.

Coming out to me means to fight the homophobia, classism, racism, and sexism that is placed on us and we allow to be placed on us. And please let me go there, and remind us of the "isms" we place on each other in our very own community!

Coming out gave me a sense of pride and power to fight for the recognition of same-sex marriage as a legal, religious, and scared convention. I believe this issue will transform the gay-lesbian community.

Coming out means we can fight issues of legal adoption, and raising children. With the world in the condition today, ask yourself, "Does a child really care if you are straight or gay in raising him or her?" Children of the '90s need people that will provide them with substance, character, and most of all love.

After coming out, one doesn't have to forsake their own identity. I don't feel Black trans/lesbigay individuals need to assimilate into straight or white society at all.

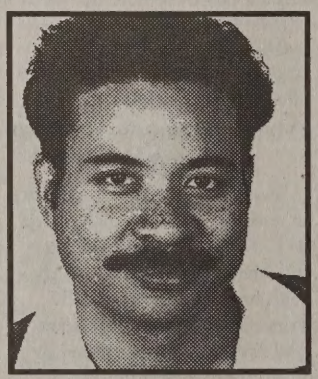
Also, coming out gave me the chance, along with many of my gay lesbian/bi transgender friends, to fight bigotry and create a vital change on homosexual issues, which were taboo until recently. Of course some believe homosexuality is still taboo, but instead of giving lip service to fighting those struggles, I, too, joined in to help make a difference.

I don't believe in outing people due to the many repercussions that someone outed without their consent may encounter on their jobs, in child custody battles, or among those that share their religious beliefs. But, most importantly, the time to come out should be for each individual to decide.

On October 11, National Coming Out Day, support someone who is coming out with a smile or hug, but whatever you give, be positive—you once had to come out, too.

Train Ride With A Lady

by Jean Pierre Campbell



As my 9-year-old nephew and I disembarked the train, smiling , he turned and waved at the lady whom I identified as a familiar face from the past. As we headed toward our destination, I decided to share with him news of the startling. "You know my lady friend whom you waved at, well ... she's actually a man," I said, waiting his reaction, wondering if in my zeal to begin a conversation on the nature of difference I had instead begun something I might come to regret.

"Oh, my God!" he yelled in disbelief. "Uncle, you mean that was a man?" he continued, like an old codger who had been duped, because he thought life held no new surprises.

"Yeah, she sure is," I said. "Sometimes people aren't happy with the bodies they're born with, so they change the way they look until they like themselves more. There's even an operation you can have where a man can become a woman or a woman can become a man."

"But Uncle, what happens when she meets a man and he wants to date her and..."

"Hey, wait a minute. I don't know about all that. I imagine that she'd probably tell anybody she cares about," I said, a bit stumped.

"I don't know, Uncle. People should just be blessed with what God gave 'em," he said forthrightly. "I'm just glad nobody in my family is like that," he added with an implicit sigh of relief in his pre-pubescent voice.

Looking him directly in the eyes with the look of a wounded puppy (which I knew would have some measure of appeal), I said, "You mean to tell me that if I went off and got a sex change, you wouldn't love me anymore?" Waiting for an answer, I continued looking at him, unable to conceal a slight smile beginning to surface.

Pondering the question for a moment, suddenly he looked up at me with a kind of "Well let me put it to you this way" expression on his face and said, "Oh, I'd still love ya alright, I just wouldn't go nowhere with ya!"

I couldn't help but to burst out laughing, because he was so mature and discerning, so articulate and honest—and about as homophobic as his supermacho grandfather (trust me on this one, okay?). But fortunately, he knows that his Uncle, too, is not like other men. In fact, he knows I'm a big sissy with funny clothing and a horde of books, who is constantly pushing him to seek out all the answers to his questions. I want him to learn that the pursuit of knowledge is a good thing, and I hope his will to question never ceases.

When we arrived home that afternoon, he couldn't wait to tell his mother about the day's events. "Mommy, you shoulda been with us," he said. "Uncle's friend was on the train dressed like a woman, and he was a man!"

"Look, you just come and sit and eat your dinner, and stop talking so much," his mother commanded. "And you," she said, pointing in my direction, "stop taking my son to weird places."

"What weird places? We were on the train," I said, trying not to laugh.

Suddenly, my nephew abruptly interrupted us. "Mommy, okay, but one more question," he urged.

"Okay, what?" she said impatiently.

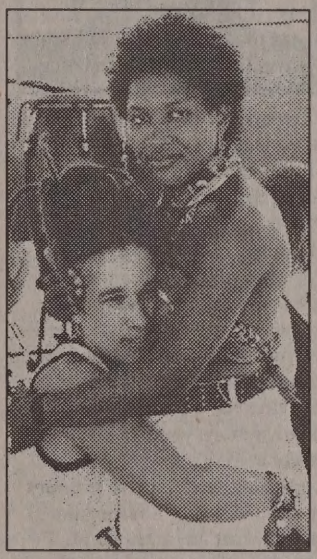
"Would you still love me ... if I got a sex change?" he asked, batting his eyes, making a sad puppy dog face. Immediately, I smiled at him because it meant that he understood what I was trying to say, after all—that loving is really about something more substantial than the superficial bodies we inhabit.

Women's Autumnfest in DeKalb

by Chris Smith

Midwest Womyn's Autumnfest was held in Dekalb Sunday, Aug. 31. This annual event usually draws a crowd of about 1,000 women who come to experience a full day of events including: workshops, music, food (for the vegetarian enthusiast) and a vendor market which displays a myriad of artistry and crafts. The festival is just north of the Northern Illinois University Campus in DeKalb and is set in the center of a grassy field surrounded by corn fields. Once acclimated to the heat and adequately protected from the sun, my friends and I were able to enjoy the true essence of being in a completely woman-centered environment. Women arrived throughout the day armed with lawn chairs, coolers, reading materials, and all of their individual comforts ready to enjoy the day's events.

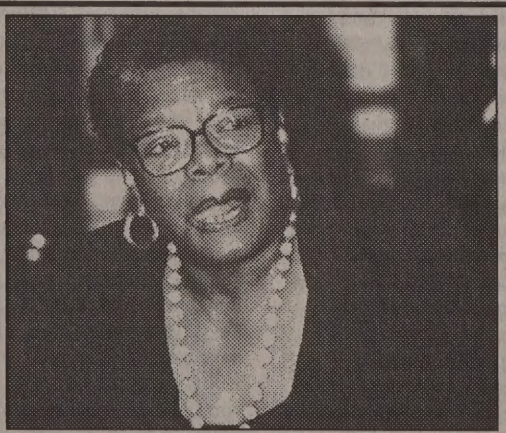
The main stage featured a variety of musicians, and comedians playing, singing, and offering their satirical and political views on lesbian life. The highlight for my friends and I was the opportunity to hear an artist named **mehuman jonson.** Mehuman (may-oo-man) is a singer/ songwriter/guitarist from Detroit. Mehuman cultivated her "smoldering bard diva talents" in the midwest, but is currently based in New York City. In her music, mehuman addresses issues of sexuality and cultural diversity, and transforms life's joys and sorrows into beautiful music. Mehuman was, incidentally, one of only two women of color to perform during the entire day of featured artists. In fact, as we surveyed the sea of faces, we (Black women) were the distinct minority amongst the festival attendees, a sight all too familiar at these kinds of events.



LEFT: Women enjoying the vendors showcase. RIGHT: Stormy (left), who was asked to sing, in the absence of another perfomrer, and Mehuman, singer/songwriter/ guitarist. Photos by Chris Smith

The festival promoters were friendly enough and welcoming. There appeared to be an atmosphere of "sister inclusion," but still very few faces of color. I wonder if our absence at such events is due to lack of information, discomfort with moving beyond our comfort zones, or the presence of cultural nuances which make it difficult to connect with events which have not included us in the planning process. I wonder if greater attendance from women of color could be achieved, if festival promoters actively include organizations of color to assist in the planning process, or if more artists of color were included as part of the featured entertainment and vendors. I'm not sure of the answer. I believe it rests somewhere in the middle. For sisters who can not get to the Michigan Womyn's festival , Autumnfest occurs the same time each year and offers a similar experience.

Call (815) 748-5359.



LEFT: A performer at a recent WordRising open mic reading at Paris Dance Le Femmes Amies. RIGHT: Maya Angelou at Afrocentric Books. BELOW, LEFT: Annette, Yvette, Yvette (day's the host) and Chris enjoying Women's NBA basketball action during the short season. RIGHT: Tanya and Natalie of Le Femmes Amies at Paris Dance. Paris is open thru Nov. 15. Photos by Israel Wright, Tracy Baim and Lynnell S. Long

TRANSLUCENT TRANSEXUAL

by Lynnell Stephanie L.

Trans Youth

I was 13 years old when I first heard the word "Transsexual." I was in grammar school, and we were studying sexuality in my science class. According to the book, I was asexual with homosexual tendencies, and a possible transsexual. The word transsexual caught my attention because that was the first time I have ever heard of that term. The science book described transsexuals as "Members of one sex becoming the opposite sex." Even then I could never identify with the term transsexual. I have always believed I was born female with the wrong genitalia. It was a year later when I first met a transsexual—her name was Roxanne, and she was a 63rd Street prostitute. I began to follow her around, curious about her and the life she lived. About a month later, she caught me following her, looked at me and said, "I know you, you're Mrs. Long's child, aren't you? Why are you following me?" I said "Because you're different than most girls." She smiled and said, "Well don't let your momma catch you. People around here don't understand me." I didn't have to ask her what she meant by that. I knew.

I was gender dysphoric, and had begun to dress androgynously. No one understood me either. Our distant relationship continued for more than two years before I moved. I never saw Roxanne again. I never had a transsexual role model (besides Roxanne) to tell me it's OK to be me, and to be proud of who I am. I knew transsexuals existed, but there were no other BLACK transsexual role models. I worry about the trans youth of today. Although there are Black Transsexuals role models besides myself, I wonder if they know about us. I feel it's extremely important for trans youth to know that it's OK for them to be who they are. It is essential for their future. There are many roads one can take when they realize they are transgendered.

(Transgendered is a broad term encompassing Transsexuals, Transvestites, Crossdressers, Bigenders, and Drag Queens). But the one that works is self-acceptance, and being true to yourself. Today's society is a little more accepting of the transgendered community, and there are resources available for trans youth. Horizons Community Services has a youth program for lesbigaytrans youth. I spoke there in May to their volunteers regarding sensitivity to the trans youth. Although I haven't personally met any trans youth, I see them. The ones I have seen were mostly drag queens. It's easy to be drawn into a world of sequin gowns, and making fast money through shows. If you are a trans youth, you should know that's not the only alternative. You could live your life as a woman, and work a regular job. If you think you are transgendered, I suggest getting psychotherapy to help you make sure. Just because you like to dress, act or look like a woman, doesn't mean you are supposed to be a woman. After you know for sure that you want to live your life as the gender you feel you should have been born, then there's hormonal replacement. Although you can buy female hormones from any quack or on the black market, I suggest seeing an endocrinologist (they specialize in thyroid and hormones).

To the trans youth: Life can be rough at times, for those of us that are trans it can be even harder. We live in a world of fear, ignorance, and evil. Belief in God, Goddess, or any power that's greater than you will help you on your journey. Steer away from using drugs and alcohol as a method for forgetting, or numbing out. Besides, it's only a temporary solution to a permanent situation. If all you see around you is negativity, change your surroundings. Incorporate positive-thinking people in your life. Get a role model, even if it's Dennis Rodman. Most of all, don't just exist, live.

FYI: Transexual is not misspelled. Originating out of New York with Transexual Menace-New York, the term Transexual (with one "S") is a way transexuals separate themselves from the label given to us by the infamous endocrinologists of the '50s.

Love Between Minorities

by Jennifer R. Theiss

Most of us have been attracted to someone of another ethnicity, sometimes succeeding for one-night stands or dating. Good, fun times, but when things get serious the experience is completely different than dating someone of our own race.

We have the opportunity to learn and understand another culture in the closest possible way, our love relationship. When both partners belong to a minority the circumstances are in equilibrium, suffering equally from prejudice, discrimination and bigotry. But also enjoying our own particularities.

How does society at large perceive these unions? There will always be ignorant people that won't agree with them, but fortunately these people are becoming the minority in Chicago (the melting pot), where everyone is used to sharing the city with folks from all around the world.

What about our families and friends? The majority would prefer to see us with someone of "our own kind," but will accept our decision if we are happy. Those who don't, then they were never really our friends. Some family members can be stubborn, but we can only choose our friends, not our relatives.

We can have an open dialogue with them, but we should never sacrifice FOR ANYBODY, even if we lose our inheritance. We get to this world with nothing, and we'll leave the same way. They also have their choices and we shouldn't intervene with them.

In the legal arena things are slowly changing for the better, as our ethnic groups (especially African-Americans and Hispanics) are growing really fast, and they are now BIG, HUGE, minorities, that are much harder to ignore or segregate.

We still have a lot of work ahead of us and now more than ever it is imperative that all of us participate in at least one of our many organizations, supporting our leathers, voting in elections, making politicians aware of our concerns and needs, educating ignorants and coming out of the closet. Nobody should be static, waiting for others to do the job. African-Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, Asians, American Indians, Pacific Islanders, Jewish, etc., we all are in the same boat and our power is unity.

It is hard enough to be lesbian, gay, bi or trans to, on top of that, segregate ourselves with intolerance. Example? Those bars having a "Special ethnicity night"—usually these are the same places that have a sign asking for three pieces of ID, so they can deny access to whomever they dislike.

This MUST be abolished, and we should not patronize these bars. I suggest they change to a sign that reads: "All welcome, have your ID ready please."

In the threshold of the 21st Century, it is about time to mature. We must be positive and next time you have the chance, try dating someone different—perhaps the only consequence will be your happiness. Celebrate and enjoy our diversity. I personally, at different times during my life, have dated women of different races. I highly recommend them and never regret them. Remember real love has no color or creed, and if we want freedom let's work for justice.

Theiss writes for En La Vida.

A Mother and Her Son

by Charles Clifton

For me and most of the people I have encountered during this lifetime, the relationship between a mother and her son is a special relationship. Like many of my friends, I have been blessed by the protection, guidance, friendship and wisdom of my mother. She has allowed me the freedom to experience triumphs and tribulations of life, all while assuring me that no matter where the path of life leads me I will always have the security of home to return to.

It seems that no matter how far we progress there will always be the time enduring connection between a boy and his mother. I was again reminded of this simple fact of nature this 1997 Labor Day weekend. Over the weekend I visited Rochester, NY, with my partner. Rochester is his hometown. He was born there and lived there until finishing college. Rochester is the nest of his dearest memories. His dream is to return to Rochester, settle down with his life-partner and live happily ever after. We went there together - first, so I could meet his friends and secondly, so that he might convince me to move there with him in a few years. I was surprisingly pleased with all I encountered.

But as much as I liked Rochester and up-state New York, the entire time I was there I kept thinking about how far I would be removed from my immediate family. There resides in a small town in Mississippi a huge portion of my heritage, my identity and my motivation for continuing in life's struggle. Over the weekend, I found myself torn by mixed emotions. I could easily build a career in Rochester, however the desire to return to the South, to be near my mother, my sisters and their families, my grandmother and many aunts, uncles and cousins, is strong. I have been blessed by so many advantages, which were not available to my parents, aunts and uncles 20 or 30 years ago, and I'm nearing a point in life where I could directly give back. And still there is yet another force pushing me away from both Mississippi and Rochester, towards a less traveled path—one which even I can't identify at this point.

Princess Diana's boys were not the first to lose their mother in an accident, nor would they be the last.

And then over this remarkable Labor Day weekend two teenage boys named William and Harry, in a far away land, lost their mother. They were not the first boys to lose their mother in an accident that busy weekend, nor would they be the last. Their mother was not any more special than the mother of Tony (my first partner) who was taken away when he was 3 years old; or the mother of my best friend James, who died 15 years ago; or the mother of a new friend here in Chicago, who passed away early this year. The only difference is that whereas we know our mothers as Queens, the world "knew" the mother of these two young boys as a princess named Diana. I feel sympathy because another special bond between a mother and her son was forever severed. I feel sadness because as everyone dreams of their "happily ever after," not all fairy tales come true. And lastly, I feel confusion because the pull of home grew a little bit stronger when my partner handed me my coffee on Sunday morning Aug. 31. For those of you who still have a mother living, be thankful and cherish that relationship—and tonight say an extra prayer for her and for all the sons and daughters whose mothers have passed on.

Walk Your Talk

by Dwayne Lopez Sanders

Everyone is talking about racism in this country. The president has chosen this as his legacy. Congressmen want to apologize for slavery. The truth, this is just a lot of grandstanding done in the name of politics. If you want to really open up a dialogue, you'll call a spade a spade. President Clinton would get on TV and say, "I am sexist and racist, although I don't like it, I am just that." Congressmen would stand on the floor of Congress and say, "I really don't like Black people, if it was up to me, they would all take their black !$$ back to the motherland." Well unless we see pigs flying anytime soon, this will never happen. It's just not politically correct or wise—unless you're Jesse Helms or an elected senator from North Carolina.

The truth is that actions speak a lot louder than their words. President Clinton has washed away almost ever promise he has made to most minority groups because he knows the alternative is a far worse choice for us. We are politically expendable. He promised to have his inner circle reflective of the nation by giving normally unrepresented groups a place at his table. Well we're still cleaning up after dinner. He has used women, especially black women, time and again as scapegoats when the heat gets too hot. President Clinton speaks the talk of inclusion but his walk is more of a slight crawl.

The problem is that they don't want to talk about slavery because it is one of the many black eyes on our country. They often compare it to the American Indians being killed and forced off their land. You can't compare deaths but they try, like it makes our ancestors' deaths not all that serious. "We should get over it," they say. How can the torturer tell the tortured when to get over it?

Although Lincoln, a slave owner, signed a piece of paper saying slaves were now free, it didn't mean a thing then and has changed very little in this country now. Pharaoh told the children of Israel the same thing and he still tried to kill them. We haven't had our divine intervention, and many of us are still waiting in vain for ours.

It's only been 30 years since we were given equal rights on papers and it seems that should have been good enough. Do you get the logic? I don't. We enslave your race for generations, now get up and over it. I remember the first time I read the constitution, I knew about slavery, but it was not real until that day. I was 12 and I had to read it for school. That's when it hit me. My grandparents parents were less then a full human being under the constitution. What they went through ran through my mind—it was no longer slaves in my mind, it was my history, my family. Black kids will live their lives knowing that at one time or another someone in their family lineage was considered less than a full person.

Clinton and the rest of white America will never realize that we live with that history every second of our lives. It doesn't stop us from succeeding, but it is there. It impacts our lives in ways that are not seen and that will never fully be understood. To think an apology will heal wounds that are so deep you can't tell where they exist is a mistake. To believe that racism is dead in this country is a mistake. To heal these wounds we have to embrace the horrible history of slavery and not wipe it under the American rug.

Knowing and accepting the truth is the only true step toward healing.

History Through Storytelling

by Kathleen Rose Winter

I spent four hours interviewing a smart, beautiful, personable, and sensitive woman of African descent. Darlene (not her real name), born in 1951, was and is history, and has an excellent story to tell.

This story was to be about a transgendered person. I am using the word transgendered, only because people are more familiar with the label. However, I must stress that all who define themselves with this label are not the same—they are very complex, and very unique. People that are perceived as transgendered or consider themselves transgendered or transsexual are the people that make the world pause and contemplate everything—ourselves and our lives.

Darlene was born a biological male. As a young child, she always felt as if she was a female inside a male body. She did not feel like a homosexual. She did not feel transgendered or transsexual. Instead, she knew her male body was something defective; that somehow would and could be "fixed." Six years ago, at age 40, she had the "birth defect" corrected. She is female. She is a woman. She describes herself as a "biologically challenged" female because she can't give birth.

Within the first hour of my interview, no matter how hard I tried, I could not get Darlene to define herself within my limitations. I sat there saying to myself, here is a person who is a significant part of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual, and transgendered history, yet, she is not a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or transsexual person. When I asked her if she was a heterosexual female, she said "no." She added that she "deals with both males and females," but she would not take the label of bisexual. She stood her ground without disrespecting gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or transsexual people. She graciously defined herself without feeling the need to belittle or trivialize the identities of others.

Darlene grew up in Chicago's Lawndale neighborhood, near 16th and Pulaski. People unfamiliar with this area need to know that a few blocks east, on Kedzie, was a corner referred to as "bucket of blood." Apparently, it was a violent and impoverished area. So, Darlene as a biological male child, adolescent, and young adult, lived among the gangbangers, the drugs, the "oil" (alcohol), and the poverty of that era. She, as a boy, was never threatened by the gangs. In fact, gangs such as the Conservative Vice Lords, treated this boy-child with warmth and respect. Darlene says that she was feminine, however her style and clothing were conservative. As a young man, she dressed as a "preppy" young man. She added that she was "real" and that characteristic earned the respect of her neighbors and peers.

Darlene, as a young man went to college, served in the Navy for four years during the "Vietnam era," and was an active participant in the Black Civil-Rights Movement. Her organizational affiliations included the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. I, of course, was interested in her involvement in the gay, lesbian, bi and trans civil-rights movement. She quickly discussed her interactions with this community, but modestly dismissed any significant work on her part. She said her involvement in this movement was a forced necessity for her situation. She maintained that her gender was always female (gender is defined as a social label) while her sex (biological) was male. Her heart was with our community but she always knew that her gender was female and her sex would eventually become female.

Her decision to have her physical being changed forever was not like dressing up in women's clothing, as she did when she was "play acting" as a child. Six years ago, after living two years as a woman, she saved enough money, went to Belgium and became what she wanted to be—what she is—a woman.

I want to mention that I was uncomfortable—maybe a little unsure about my interview with Darlene. I wanted to be "politically correct" not as some kind of trite liberal, but "correct" regarding a sensitivity for all people. I think everyone has a right to define themselves. I am obligated to respect that right. When I looked for a new story to tell, I wanted to do one about a transgendered person. I wanted to interview a "Drag Queen." I wanted this because the "Drag Queens" were and are the frontrunners of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans civil-rights movement. To me, they are our heroes. They step out everyday being what they want to be and show it to the world. We ordinary gay, lesbian, and bi folks have a choice between being "out" or being "closeted." We can run in and out of our dark, crowded closets at any time. "Drag Queens" have closets, but they are used to store only their armor—their clothes, their makeup, their war paint—everything they are and need to come out "as they dare." These individuals are the relentless friction that rubs away at the heterosexual nonsense, hypocrisy, and subterfuge of the mainstream culture. I love "Drag Queens." I respect "Drag Queens." Even with my obvious respect and awe for transgendered people and their fight to be individual and unique, I came to this interview as a bigot. I had a clueless liberalism that was challenged by this smart, beautiful, personable, and sensitive woman of African descent. I came to the interview ignorant because I was thinking of her as "transgendered," "transsexual," and finally, as maybe a "Drag Queen." She graciously refused my limitations and educated me about how important it is for all individuals to define themselves—their own existence. Her act of self-definition should be an example for all people. I came to the interview ignorant because I was thinking "transgendered." Within five minutes, Darlene declared herself a woman. She even had the paper work that documents her sex as female; she has a birth certificate and an Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy. She made this declaration without diminishing her respect for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or transsexual individuals.

I realize that this story may not have the usual aspects of an historical account, however this woman is a significant part of our history as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people. Darlene said the ultimate "NO" to everyone but herself. Most of us (myself included) do just the opposite. There exists many "isms" in our community. Often we attempt to force one another to be what we perceive them to be. If an individual refuses this forced perception—this label—we sometimes choose to delete them from our lives; we make them non existent or invisible. We call them "outsiders" and segregate ourselves emotionally and physically from them. These acts of prejudice are useless, futile, unnecessary, and ignorant. You see, an outsider cannot exist; he or she cannot be an outsider. Do you know why? My talk with Darlene showed me why—there is no outside, only an inside.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

RESEARCH POSITIONS AVAILABLE. The Research Division of Howard Brown Health Center seeks two motivated individuals to assist with operations of a federally funded research project. The project is designing and testing a new behavioral intervention addressing substance use and sexual behavior.

ASSOCIATE PROJECT COORDINATOR. The successful candidate for this full-time position will coordinate assigned research activities. Use of computer databases to track participants and develop reports will be a major activity. Must be able to work independently. Program management experience is preferred. A bachelor's degree is required, a master's degree is preferred, especially in social sciences or public health.

COMMUNITY LIAISON. This full-time position requires an outgoing individual to conduct direct outreach activities. Familiarity with the North Halsted area required. Previous outreach experience preferred.

Address all inquiries to **Human Resources, Howard Brown Health** Center, 945 W. George St., Chicago, IL 60657. Fax responses to (773) 871-6929. No phone calls please. HBHC is an EOE.

Artists Wanted

WANTED: Women-identified T-Shirt design for WIMINFEST '98. Please submit your ideas to WIMIN, P.O. Box 80204, Albuquerque, NM 87198-0204. Include name, phone number. For more info, call 505-899-3627 or 1-800-499-5688 and ask the T-Shirt Tyrant to call you back. If we use your design, we will compensate you!

Craftswomen Wanted

WIMINFEST '98 Call for Craftswomen!!! Join us in a brand new spacious location with lots of room for you and your wares in our annual arts and crafts fair during our Memorial Weekend Festival, May 22-24 1998. WIMINFEST is a celebration of lesbian culture, lives, strengths, talents and diiversities. Women-made items only; no mass-produced items; show is juried. Deadline for application is Feb. 6, 1998. For info call 1-800-499-5688 or write WIMINFEST Arts & Crafts Fair, P.O. Box 80204, Albuquerque, NM 87198-0204.

Performers Wanted

WIMINFEST: The Southwest's premier women's music festival seeks musicians, comics and other performers for WIMINFEST '98, May 22-24, Albuquerque, NM. WIMINFEST is committed to providing a venue for performers of all ethnic, cultural and artistic backgrounds. Send press kit and audio or video recording by Nov. 1 to WIMINFEST, P.O. Box 80204, Albuquerque, NM 87198-0204. Include name, phone number.

SEARCH for MUSLIMS

IF YOU ARE GAY and were raised in, are practicing, or have ever practiced Islam, an Art Institute graduate student would like to interview you for a student documentary. The interviewed will be respectfully implored to tell their personal stories regarding a subject not entirely realized by either the Islamic or Queer communities. **If interested, call Abu at (773) 645-3608.** *(12/97)*

VOLUNTEERS

HIV AFFECTS EVERYONE; Volunteering helps us all. Volunteers needed in all areas of Test Positive Aware Network, a not-for-profit agency serving the needs of HIV impacted individuals. Brian, Volunteer Services, **773-404-8726.** *(10/97)*

TRAVEL

AFRICA!

GETAWAY COTTAGES in new Buffalo, Mich., 1-1/2 hours from Chicago. Near beach, restaurants, shopping. VCR/TV. 2 or 3 bedroom, fireplace, **(312) 287-2400; 1-800-44-ENVOY.** *(9/98)*

Mysterious ... Exotic ... Breathtaking ... Incomparable! Private, fully escorted safari to Kenya and Tanzania July 98. Join us on a journey of discovery. Call **(773) 975-7225.** *(11/98)*

WhuzzUp this week in D.C.? Men's Event & Info Line in the Black Gay Capitol: 1-900-963-0230 ($1.95 per min). *** ALSO TRY MALEBOX MAGAZINE: The Intimate Opinions, Experiences & Emotions of Black Gay Men $24/12 issues (hardcopy only). More info: Malebox2@aol.com

Personals

How to place an ad:

- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months. ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates ($10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months $27).
- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs $1.49 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.
- You can rent BLACKLINES mailbox/$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, or beeper #, we request **$5 per 2 months.** We DO NOT accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next BLACKlines. You can also run in Nightlines and Outlines.

How to respond to an ad:

- If an ad ends with an NL/V #, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parentheses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).
- If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can *only* reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can *only* reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NL/V # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o **BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657.** Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message ($1.49/min.), use *touchtone* phone to call **1-900-454-0101.** Punch 1 & 5-digit NL/V # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages.

(773) 871-7610 ***(Tuesays 9-5 only)***

Ad should read _____

Please also run ad in (no extra money): ❒ Outlines ❒ Nightlines ❒ En La Vida

FREE voice-mail number (phone responses only)! ❒ *I Do NOT want voice box #*

PERSONALS for ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. ***Classified rates*** ($10 for 1 month, 3 months $27).

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION— MUST BE FILLED OUT:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Cost of the ad:

1st 20 words, 2 months	FREE
Additional words 25¢ ea.	$_____
MailBox # ($6 per month)	$_____
Total Amount Enclosed:	**$_____**

Send to: BLACKlines/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

ADULT SERVICES

PENIS, NIPPLE enlargement Professional vacuum pumps or surgical enlargement. Gain 1-3". Permanent, safe. Enhance erection. For FREE Brochures call: **Dr. Joel Kaplan, (312) 409-1950.** Latest enlargement information **1-900-976-PUMP** ($2.95 min.). *(4/98)*

PERSONALS

MEN

Attractive BM top straight acting 5'9" 150# 30yrs discreet hard body. ISO slim/boyish guys under 37 yrs (any race) Lee page **(312) 216-9101** *(11)*

Big attractive 300# BM Teddy ISO big affectionate masculine sumo type for a serious relationship. (Big hands/Bubble booty+.)**VOICE52301***(11)*

Experience heaven on earth, be touched from head to toe. Why wait for the elusive heaven? GWM, swimmer's build, looking for friend to exchange body massage. Finally be in touch with yourself. Write **PO Box 14121 Chicago, IL 60614-0121** *(11)*

GWM 40s 225# seeks Latino for friendship, dating, any age, likes movies, dining, talks. **NLBox249**

BGM 6'3", 205 masculine oral bottom seeks masculine non-fat BGM for steamy action **PO Box 87325, Chicago, IL 60680**

Love and romance, endless passionate nights, unforgettable moments together and more. Nice looking Mexican 25, 6, 150, serious, mature, responsible acting straight, looking for tall slim black guy 20-30 to share dreams, love and fun, no games please, photo-phone to get mine. Can we have a chance? You will not be disappointed. **NLBox245**

GBM top 48, 5'11", 185 ISO bottom straight acting masculine BM employed social drinker HIV-, no femmes, 25-50. **NLBox243**

Starved for Affection? BiWM, 39, 6'1", 180, handsome, athletic, touch oriented Lincoln Park yuppie; loves erotic massage, exotic women, occasional man-to-man encounters, seeks slender, well-endowed oral enthusiast for erotic massage exchange. Photo appreciated. **NLBox241**

Older GWM, 5'8", 170#, grey thinning hair, blue eyes, good looking, speaks English and Spanish, straight acting/appearing, non-smoker, no drugs, HIV-, fun person. Looking for young, slim Puerto Rican top, HIV-, no drugs. If you like sex and are looking for a possible relationship with mature guy, call or write with photo. **NL/V52297**

Kind-hearted, easy-going GBM 32, masculine, Catholic, fun-loving, compassionate. Very affectionate-ISO caring, very masculine, "out" Catholic Latino or mixed-race gay male (28-36, 5'10"+) for serious LTR. **NL/V52295** *(10)*

Need a friend?! Educated, responsible, sensitive, GWM 30, ISO a person of high values and views. Looks/age not important as the ability to share one's heart. **Rick PO Box 100-23128, Jean, NV 89026** *(10)*.

Hot mouth full denturant servant gives unique oral services, Latin uncut A+ HIV- UB2. Photo, phone all answered . **NLBox235** *(10)*

Two good looking GWM, 30s, tops, HIV- looking for gay bottoms, any race, for safe group encounters. Photo a must. **NLBox233**

BM 32 attractive, clean, educated, masculine top seeks BM-L or A between 25-38 for friendship, dating. You should be clean, fit, educated, drug-free, masculine bottom. **VM (773)221-8995** *(9)*

GBM, 6', 205#, 38, disease free ISO married BiBM, HIV-, 35-50, no commitments for friendship and more. **NL/V52285** *(9)*

Ivory and Ebony-I'm a SWM, professional, well-endowed top (versatile), tall, 38, diverse interests include landscaping, movies, politics, architecture, dining, traveling, stimulating conversation, museums. ISO GBM or GHM, 25-40, slim, mature, educated, financially stable, bottom (versatile), enjoys movies. Please, no game players or drug users. **NL/V52287** *(9)*

You: want serious relationship, yet playful, gentle-spirited, can listen and speak about experiences feelings, thoughts. Physically compact, boyishly muscular, HIV negative. Confident (not showy). Enjoy city and quiet outdoors. **Me:** Well-built, attractive, moderately hairy, HIV negative top. 5'10" 165#, young-looking 45. Love to kiss, wrestle (like lab, not pitbull). Biking, backpacking, skiing, indoor entertainments. Value conversational intimacy, honest, good-natured. **NL/V52281**

Attractive top, discreet masculine 5'9" 150 # 30 yr BM ISO slim guys under 35 yr (any race) for hot fun, friendship, relationship **VM (312) 216-9101 Lee**

Attractive ebony man, 26, 5'10" 180#, fit, honest, hard worker, release 1/3/98. Seek ebony or ivory soulmate for new start in life. **Maurice Hawthorne, Jr. #185609, FL State Prison, PO Box 181, Starke FL 32091** *(9)*

WOMEN

Attractive black gay female seeks other gay black female for friendship, perhaps more. Enjoy movies, dining out, etc. **NLBox 984**

Rescue Me!! Tired of the bar scene? GWF 40 (soft butch) looking for femme GHF, GBF financially + emotionally stable. Height + weight proportionate. Looking for someone to share my life with, are you out there? I like movies, dancing, dinner, shipping, new adventures. I'm a one-woman girl. No bi's. **NLBox 978**

Word witches! Passionate poets. Writer seeks same to share work, ideas, inspiration. Send me a letter. **NLBox970**

Weren't you that cute writer at Sister Spit? I was too. Let's meet and pick up our own girlish pens. Send a letter. **NL/V52370** *(11)*

SGBF, 31 who is intelligent, independent and physically fit. I enjoy exercising, clubs, coffee shops and dining out. Race unimportant. **VOICE52364** *(10)*

SBF mid 20s attractive, athletic, intelligent, considerate, romantic, tall, ISO attractive, slim, intelligent, affectionate SWHF, 23-35, friendship or more. **Voice52352** *(10)*

Tomboy, 21, ISO innovative, energetic, sarcastic, clever, charming, decisive, athletically-fit, unpredictable, life-enjoying, 21-25 tomboy, soft butches extreme plus **VM (312) 882-0568** *(9)*

GWF full fig. enjoys fishing, camping, biking, getaways, just being together. ISO full fig. 25/40 soft butch. Let's share laughter. **VOICE52342** *(9)*

SGBF, 28 fun affectionate honest soft butch ISO GF drug free 20-33 for friendship. Race unimportant. **PO Box 11173 Merrillville, IN 46411** *(9)*

Cute Asian gal ISO other GAF between 22-35 for friendship. I enjoy eating, dancing, movies, conversations and just hanging out. Let's get together! **NLBox902** *(9)*

Emotionally demanding, professionally secure, anal retentive, bookstore junkie who expects honesty and respect, loves movies, lazy afternoons, long conversation and friendship. Allergic reaction to drug and alcohol abusers, co-dependents, bar flies, under achievers, intellectual illiterates and "me" syndrome women! In search of friendship, race and age unimportant. **VM#(630) 263-4938**

Mix & Match

Attractive BiWM transvestite ISO BiWF for sincere friendship, shopping excursions and dress up fun. **VOICE 52291** *(9)*

World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

Catching Up

Tony Brown, the radio and television personality, recently was quoted in THE GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD as saying that he compares getting on the Internet to staying off city buses in Montgomery, Ala.; they empower Black America. "If Martin Luther King Jr., instead of calling for the boycott of buses, had called for a computer in every Black home, then the Black community would be educationally equal today," Brown stated. "But Martin Luther King chose the appropriate tool for his era—the boycott—to empower the Black community. Today, the appropriate tool is technology." Indeed, it seems that a technological divide looms in our future between the haves and the have-nots. The haves will own computers and/or will have access to the Internet. While white America has basically sped onto the information superhighway, Black America has found relatively few access ramps and relatively more speed bumps. A survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau found only 11 percent of Black households had a computer while 29 percent of white households had one. Moreover, according to another survey, only 5.3 percent of the adults who cruise the Net are Black. Fortunately, things are changing. The catalysts behind the change include Brown (who has started an online forum) and online services (which have created areas for African-American users). Hopefully, more Blacks will be enticed by these alterations to surf the Net and discover all that the cyber-realm has to offer.

ANDREW'S PICKS:

1. **Out in Black** (http://www4.ncsu.edu/ eos/users/j/jdhardy/public/oibtc.html) is a hip webzine that includes such features as interviews with Alice Walker and June Jordan.

2. **National Association of Black and White Men Together** (http://members.aol.com/nabwmtocc/intron.html), as you might surmise, hopes to promote a fostering environment for gay white and Black men in relationships.

3. **BlackWeb** (http://www.black-web.com/). Learn about Blacks across the (northern) border. BlackWeb spotlights the Black community in the Greater Toronto area. Read about their history and even engage in BackChat with African-Canadians.

E-mail me at gemini1@nwu.edu.

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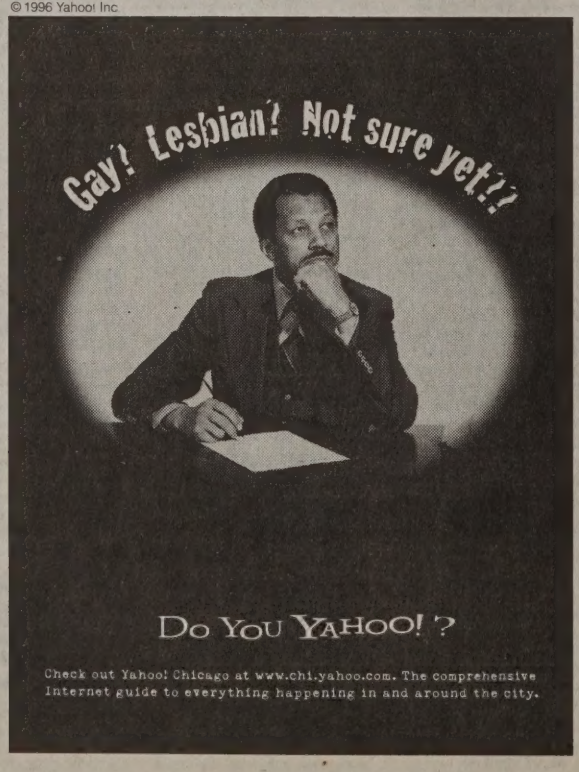
Gay? Lesbian? Not sure yet??
Do You Yahoo! ?
Check out Yahoo! Chicago at www.chi.yahoo.com. The comprehensive Internet guide to everything happening in and around the city.

The Theme toon will return next month.

F.Y.I. Resources for Black Lesbigays

Predominantly Black Gay Clubs

CLUB ESCAPE, M,W,D,1530 E. 75th St. 773-667-6454
CLUB INTIMUS (only Sat. 9p-3a)
312 W. Randolph, W,D,V.....312-901-1703
GENERATOR 306 N.Halsted, D, MW 312-243-8889
JEFFERY PUB 7041 S. Jeffrey, MW, D, 4 773-363-8555
STAR DUST REVUE, MW,D,
1529 Armitage, ***MONDAYS*** **11p-4a** 773-363-STAR

OTHER Clubs OF INTEREST

BERLIN 954 Belmont, MW, V, 4, S 773-348-4975
BIG CHICKS 5024 N. Sheridan,S/G,WM,11a-2a/3a Sa 773-728-5511
BUDDIES' REST./BAR 3301 Clark, MW, R.....773-477-4066
CHICAGO EAGLE, M,L, 5015 N. Clark 773-728-0050
CIRCUIT 3641 N. Halsted, Salsa, etc. 773-325-2233
CLUBHOUSE PLAYERS 13126 S. Western,
Blue Island, M,D,E,R,GS.....708-389-6688
FUSION 3631 N. Halsted, MW, V, D, E, 4.....773-975-6622
GIRLBAR, 2625 N. Halsted, W,D.....773-871-4210
GLEE CLUB 1543 N. Kingsbury
MW,D,E, Sunday only til 4a.....31-243-2075
GRANVILLE ANVIL 1137 Granville, MW, L 773-973-0006
LITTLE JIM'S 3501 N. Halsted, M, 4 773-871-6116
MAN'S COUNTRY 5017 N. Clark, M, B 773-878-2069
MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE 773-477-8362
PARIS DANCE 1122 Montrose, W, D, Cafe 773-769-0602
RAINBOW ROOM 4530 N. Lincoln, WM,D 773-271-4378
RAM BOOKSTORE 3511 N. Halsted, M 773-525-9528
RED DOG CLUB Monday gay nite, 1958 W. North773-278-1009
ROSCOE'S 3354-6 N. Halsted, MW, D, V, E, Cafe773-281-3355
SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted, M, V.....773-477-9189
SPIN, Halsted & Belmont, MW, D.....773-327-7711
TEMPTATIONS 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, W, D,V, E, 4,
(5a Fri/Sat)..... (847) 455-0008

Chicago Area Resources

AA/Newtown Alano Club 773-271-6822
Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays 773-493-3848
Adodi African-American men 312-458-9584
Affinity, creating a South Side community center
P.O. Box 496002, Chicago, IL 60649.....312-409-7609
Affinity & Bro. II Bro. Youth 773-288-6900, 312-409-7609, x3
African American Womyn's Alliance
P.O. Box 198573, Chgo 60619-8573 773-731-0279
A Real Read—African-American LesbigayTrans
Performance Ensemble 312-409-2457
BLACKLINES, Lambda Pub./OUTLINES
1115 W. Belmont,#2-D, 60657 (FAX773-871-7609) 773-871-7610
outlines@suba.com http://www.suba.com/~outlines/
Brother II Brother, Community Outreach 773-288-6900
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays,
P.O. Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181.....312-409-4917
Church of the Open Door FAX (773) 778-0178 ..773-778-3030
Black lesbigay/trans/heterosexual Church, 5954 S. Albany
The Committee, 2300 N. Clybourn, #32, 60614
773-235-0295; political action committee
Greater Chicago Committee, P.O. Box 146642, 60614-6642
Healthline 312-661-9153, prevent.773-674-0429 312-670-9660
Horizons Community Services 773-929-HELP
Howard Brown Health Center 773-871-5777
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund ....(312) 663-4413
Lesbian Community Cancer Project 773-561-4662
Les Femmes Amies.....312-232-0787
Men of All Colors Together/Chicago,PO Box
408922, 60640-8922 312-409-6916
Minority Outreach Intervention Proj, FAX 312-986-0928
1255 S. Wabash, Suite 2-S, 60605 312-986-0661
Onyx/Chicago leather/men, 1340 Irving, #188, 60613
Parents, Friends & Family of L&Gs/South Side773-488-7711
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Roseland Community Hospital.....773-995-6469
Stop AIDS/African American Program
1718 E. 75th St., 60649 773-752-7867
Test Positive Aware/Brothers United in Support
HIV/AIDS.....773-404-8726
Toussaintian Brothers of Illinois.....847-625-9193
TransGenesis trans support.....312-839-5541
United Faith Affinitas, Black L/G/Bi, 1448 E. 53rd .773-878-7839
Yahimba, 1012-1/2 Dodge, Evanston, IL 60202.....847-328-7715
Women of All Colors Together 773-267-0976, (708) 869-9120
Womyn Space: Lez Be In, a sister circle 773-874-2222
Writers Collective —gay, trans, lesbians of color 312-409-2457

House Warming

October 4th

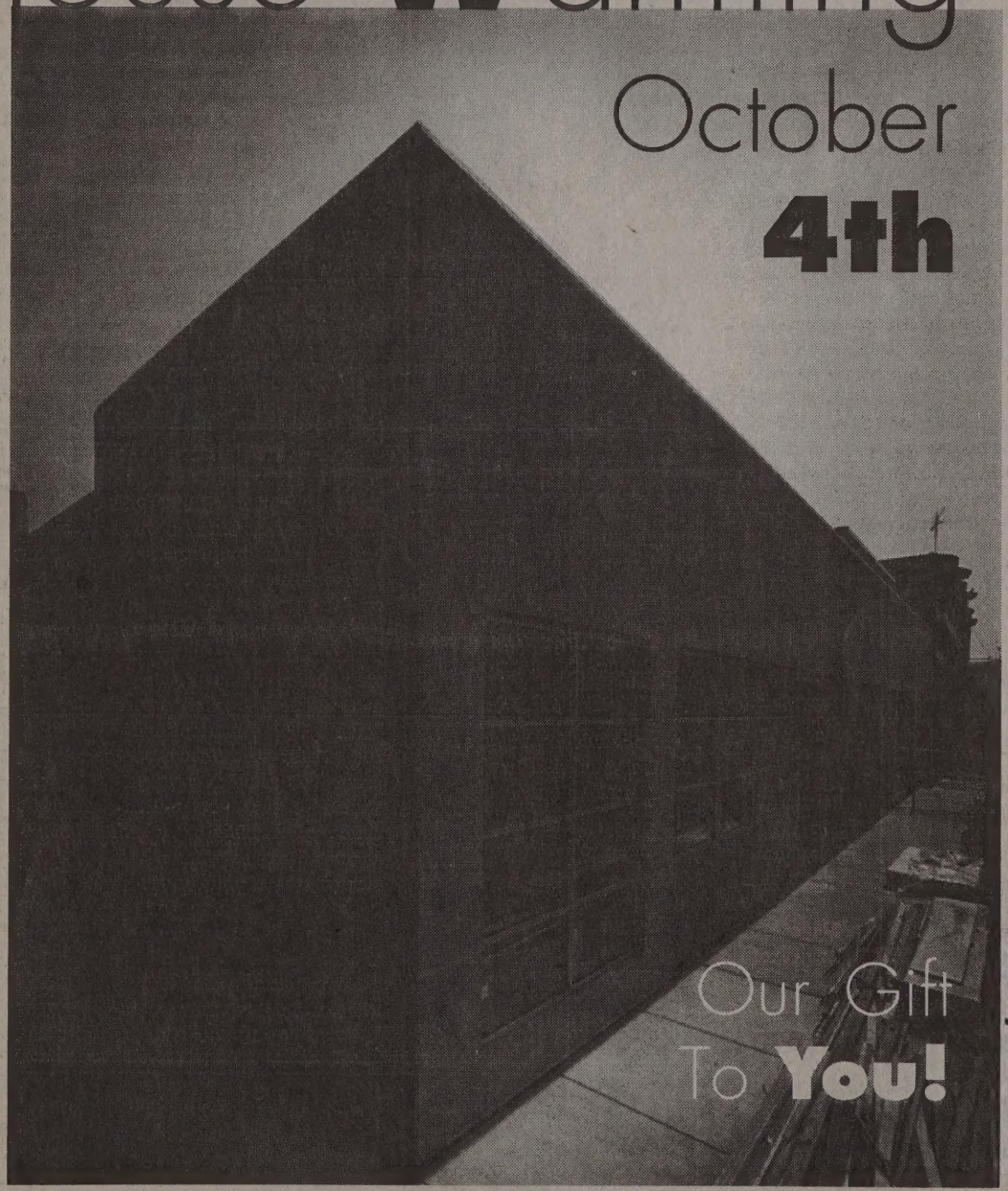

Photo by Jason Smith

Please Join Us!
On Saturday, October 4, Chicago's lesbian and gay community will open its first permanent home, Howard Brown Health Center's new state-of-the-art health center. Located at 4025 North Sheridan Road, this is the first facility built by a lesbian and gay organization in Illinois.

Health Fair
(11 a.m. - 3 p.m.)
Cuyler Street will be closed throughout the day for our celebration. Festivities will include:

- Health screenings
- Anonymous HIV testing
- Music & food
- Building tours

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony
(11:30 a.m.)
Featuring Mayor Richard M. Daley.

The Health Fair is generously sponsored by:

SUBARU

HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER
Chicago's Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Health Center

NU-Man is a discussion group for African American Gay/Bi Men.
Oct.6-Morals-Religion
Oct.13-Safer sex-Games?
Oct.20-Hook ups
Oct..27-Erotic Video Night

Get into the NU-Man

SOCIAL NIGHTS---Movies Cards, Music, on Thursday Nights ,Oct.2,Fish/Chips & Cards.Oct.9, Movie-"Love Jones",Oct.16,Pizza, Music, Hook-ups,Oct.23, Movie-"Coffee", Oct.30, Cards, Music/Friends.

call George, 773-752-7867
STOP AIDS* 1718 E. 75TH STREET

BLACK LINES

NOV. 1997, Vol. 2, No. 10 Free/$2 outside Chicago EXPRESSIONS FROM BLACK GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED LIFE

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Janet Jackson vs. The Winans Sisters on acceptance, page 21

WATERMELON WOMAN

Cheryl Dunye's romantic comedy will be screened at the Chicago Lesbian & Gay Film Fest Nov. 13.

Pictured are stars Cheryl Dunye, Guinevere Turner, Lisa Marie Bronson, and Valerie Walker. See page 22.

MINORITY OUTREACH INTERVENTION PROJECT M.O.I.P.

BROTHERS UNITED IN SUPPORT

BROTHER 2 BROTHER

Halloween Party

October 31, 1997 10pm-2am

Park West

322 W. Armitage (Clark & Diversy)

"DJ RON CARROLL"

$15. In advance($20 at the door)

For more information call Kevin Rakers on the ticket hotline at 773.404.3784 All proceeds will benefit HIV/AIDS service organizations: TPAN's- BUS, MOIP, B2B.

test positive aware NETWORK

BLACKlines

November, 1997

Volume 2, Number 10

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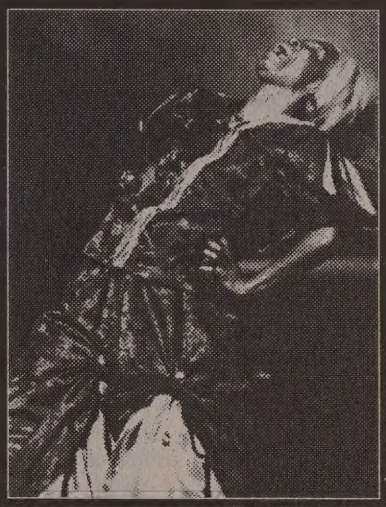

TOP: Muntu Dance Theatre celebrates its silver anniversary season. See page 14. BELOW: Janet Jackson is heating up the airwaves with bisexual love twists on her new album, while the Winans stir up anti-gay hatred. See page 20 for reviews.

BLACKlines

is on the World Wide Web:
http://www.suba.com/~outlines/

We are always

seeking photos, art, cartoons, columns, poetry, press releases, calendar items ...

BLACKlines

DEADLINE is the 5th of each month for articles, calendar, photos, art, poetry, viewpoints, etc. Material used on a space-available basis.

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Editorial

by LaJaunessee Jordan

"Homophobia" and "truly serving the underserved" were in their faces and someone from the underserved "crashed" the conference, with my assistance. "They" were mostly medical people and those who work to prevent and/or fight cancer. The conference was the Partnership for Cancer Control in Underserved Populations. It was attended by representatives of six nearby states and was held in Milwaukee in October.

We (Ardis McBell, a cancer survivor; Vicki Di Prova, new executive director of the Lesbian Community Cancer Project; and myself, board member of LCCP) made sure that we and our concerns were recognized and included in the planning. We were so successful that during our small group sessions, as Illinois was developing a role play to present to the larger group, a young Latina doctor from the University of Illinois Hospital suggested that we include lesbians and show an example of homophobia.

Mc Bell, who was diagnosed with breast cancer four years ago, is an LCCP client and a friend of mine. When I told her about the conference, we discussed how we expected that there would be no members of underserved populations there. She said she wanted to go. The conference, funded by the American Cancer Society and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was by invitation only. But that did not stop me from attempting to get a spot for McBell, especially since I had been successful in acquiring one for Di Prova. I was told, "No." After telling them that McBell was a survivor and could enlighten the group and that she would not be requesting a plane ticket, a room at the Hyatt, nor reimbursement for meals and other expenses as everyone else was receiving, I was hesitantly told that she could attend the large group session but could attend no other part of the conference.

McBell attended every aspect of the conference. I told the group that to have a conference such as this and not purposely include persons from underserved populations was like a group of white individuals getting together to make decisions for Black people, as if to say, "We're educated and we know what they need. We don't need to consult them."

There were almost no dry eyes of the approximate 100 persons present during the large group session as McBell said, "I am a member of the underserved," and continued to share personal experiences related to her cancer and how "the system" could have better served her. McBell said she received mis-information from "the system" when she was told she was not eligible for any financial assistance. She talked about dragging herself to work during her radiation and chemotherapy treatments and at other periods when the next step in her care was being decided upon, when she felt like "shit." She said she forced herself because she was gifted to have a daughter who is a pre-med student at Fisk University," she told the group. "I am going to see to it that she has what she needs to stay in school," she said. McBell explained that she later discovered that she actually was eligible for assistance when she had been declined. However, this assistance was to be about $800 per month—but when she finally got it, according to "the system" she was supposed to pay $538 per month toward her medical expenses.

McBell also discussed being actively involved in the decision-making process related to her care and some potential problems that may have occurred if she had not gained knowledge related to her disease process, in a number of ways, and kept doctors and other medical personnel on their toes throughout her four-year journey as her battle with cancer continues. At this time, McBell is in Loyola Hospital and has just been transferred from the Coronary Intensive Care Unit due to complications related to her breast cancer. She is awaiting a bone marrow transplant, which is expected to improve her quality of life and lengthen her life.

Di Prova, McBell and I mentioned the Lesbian Community Cancer Project as we introduced ourselves as the Illinois representatives met. We discussed the services of LCCP and why lesbians tend to be a part of the underserved. Everyone seemed welcoming, understanding and supportive. The group consisted of 15 women and one man. Most of the women were Black. Two were Latina. The only man, who was Black, had only spoken when introducing himself and once when directly asked a question. However, he represented Illinois well when summarizing our goals, during the large group session.

The scene of our role play was at Cook County Hospital. In addition to showing examples of poor treatment which many in the group had experienced or heard about, we included an example of blatant homophobia, when a lesbian (played by myself) attempted to pick up her ill lover's medication. Upon mentioning "my lover" and then saying, "she," the homophobia begins and lasts for several minutes. Yet, in the discussion that followed our role play, nothing was mentioned related to homosexuality or homophobia. I expressed my observation of this and the people from Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin became defensive or silent. A little discussion took place and then it was time for a break. Several white women privately said words of thanks and praise. And I had a special after-dinner invitation from a Black woman.

Representatives from Illinois worked on developing coalitions, building a resource network that shares information about each program represented and working on barriers such as homosexuality, "the isms," ignorance, accessibility, institutional red tape, being honest about our differences, and many others. We also worked on a plan to make Cook County Hospital aware of some of the problems that we are pointing out and some possible solutions, since they serve so many of the underserved. The first meeting date for the portion of the Illinois group scheduled to work on advocacy has come and gone. McBell, Di Prova and I were the only ones in attendance. And there was an out-of-town woman standing by to meet via conference call. The others canceled at the last minute.

McBell, Di Prova and I had estimated how much money the CDC and ACS had spent on the conference and how we could have made much better use of the money . The next regional conference is in Hawaii. What states are near Hawaii?

The image that appeared on invitations to the BLACKLINES subscription party was not designed nor approved by BLACKLINES/Lambda Publications. We apologize if it offended anyone.

Mary M. York
Rosemary S. Mulryan

Mulryan & York
Attorneys at Law

3442 N. Southport
(773) 248-8887

11 E. Adams, Suite 1008
(312) 922-9344

The African-American Programs of STOP AIDS

GAMBA: A discussion group for Gay & Bisexual Men
Facilitated by: **Charles Nelson & Chester Lyles**
Held at MOIP Offices, 1255 S. Wabash

- Wednesday, November 12, 7-9 p.m
  Abuse in Relationships (Communication for Prevention)
- Wednesday, November 26, 7-9 p.m.
  Current Gay Prevention Legislation

STOP AIDS, South Shore, 1718 East 75th Street • 752-7867

- Cafe Noir, a safer sex discussion group held every Monday, 6-8 p.m.
- Social Night, a gathering for brothers every Thursday, 6 -8 p.m.
- Free Anonymous HIV Testing/Orasure provided by the CDPH
  Monday, November 17, 4-6 p.m.

STOP AIDS

STOP AIDS is a subsidiary of Howard Brown Health Center

FREE HIV, STD AND HEPATITIS B & C SCREENINGS FOR QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS
We help brothers protect themselves when they're
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friends.
aim AWARENESS INTERVENTION FOR MEN
THE AIM TEAM HAS A NEW HOME AND A NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER
CALL US NOW 773.388.8872

Briefly

by LaJaunessee

Chicago scene

A new **discussion group for Black gay men living in suburban Cook County** will meet every third Wednesday. **Harambe Jaharo,** Swahili for working together to do good, is coordinated by Preston L. Shumaker, a BLACKLINES writer and former president of the Chicago chapter of Men of All Colors Together. They will meet at the Oak Park Lesbian and Gay Association office, 1145 Westgate in Oak Park. Call (708) 445-2584.

Pride Youth, a program of Links North Shore Youth Health Services, is seeking individuals to serve on their planning committee, guiding the program into its fifth year. Call (847) 441-9880.

Citizens Taking Action urges people to protest the massive CTA cuts. A public hearing will take place Nov. 3, 6:30 p.m. at the State of Illinois building, 100 West Randolph. For more info call (773) 784-5868.

Ald. Beavers has called for police hearings on the alleged **beatings of two Black men in separate incidents by Chicago police officers.**

DeJon Karlae, a longtime AIDS activist who appeared on *American Journal,* died after suffering a heart attack. Karlae had just survived a bout of PCP. In the early 1980s, Karlae was attacked by serial killer Larry Eyler, who later confessed to more than 20 murders of Chicago-area men and boys. Karlae often wondered why he survived when so many others did not, and his sense of being spared from death inspired his activism, including as a volunteer with Open Hand.

Around the nation

AIDS cases in women are increasing faster than in men. IV drug use is no longer the leading cause in women—sex with infected men is now the most common way women are getting infected.

Many children with AIDS who received protease inhibitors, the newest AIDS drugs, have shown undetectable levels of HIV in their blood, according to a recent study. The research was done by The Pediatric Aids Clinical Trial Group. They studied 162 children from two to 16 years old.

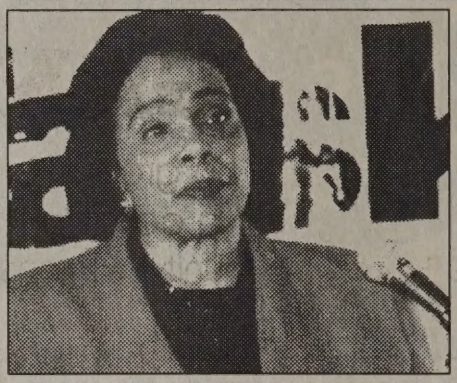
The **National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum** announced the opening of the executive director position currently held by **Keith Boykin.** Boykin will be leaving in February of 1998. The mission of the forums is to empower Black lesbian and gays by increasing their visibility, advocating for the interests of the community, developing, and supporting strong leaders for the future. Contact: (415-356-8133) (CEO Search@aol.com)

For the first time, the **Washington, D.C.-area will host the National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference.** The 1998 Conference, Feb. 12-15, will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel, minutes from Washington National Airport and the White House. The event will mark the 11th Conference, an annual program put on by the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. Earlier this year, the Board of Directors enhanced the conference format to provide new skills training workshops, create a new Health and Wellness Institute, and include more bisexuals and transgendered persons in conference programming.

The theme of the 1998 conference, "Embracing Ourselves, Empowering Our Communities," signifies a revitalized conference format. The conference chairs are Forum board members Debra Rose of Denver, and Steve Walker of Houston.

Proposals are being accepted for workshops and presentations for the Health and Wellness Institute, Empowerment Institutes and Conference workshops, that celebrate, educate and empower Black lesbians and gay men. Workshops must be related to the Conference theme or mission of one of the Conference components.

A request for proposal form must be submitted along with the abstract and program description. Abstracts may be delivered by fax (202-483-6786), email (Confrnce98@aol.com) or mail (1436 U. St. N.W, #200 . Washington, D.C. 20009). Call (202) 483-6786. Abstracts are due Nov. 30, 1997.

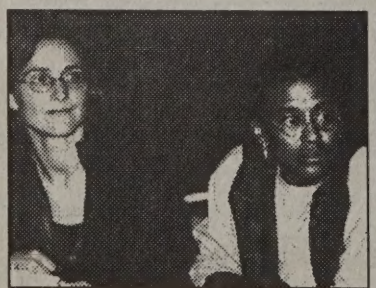


King honored

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force honored Coretta Scott King, widow of Martin Luther King, for her strong support of gay and lesbian rights. The event took place in D.C. Photo by Bob Roeher

Hardy in Chicago

Black gay author James Earl Hardy signed copies of his newest book at Chicago's Club Escape. Photo by Israel Wright



ACGLI meets at South Shore Cultural Center

The city's Commission on Human Relations Advisory Council on Gay & Lesbian Issues held their monthly meeting on the South Side in September. Pictured are members of ACGLI and audience participants. Photos by Rosalind Glanton

GAMBA

A discussion group for Gay & Bisexual men
a collaboration of the
BROTHERS Community Awareness Network (BROTHERS C.A.N.)
&
Minority Outreach & Intervention Project (M.O.I.P.)

GAMBA meetings will be held 7-9 PM at n the M.O.I.P. office (1255 S. Wabash).
Facilitated by Charles Nelson & Chester Lyles.
Phone: (312) 986-0661

Nov. 12- Abuse In Relationship (Communication for Prevention)
Nov. 26- Current Gay Legislation (Legislation for Prevention)

Cafe Noir
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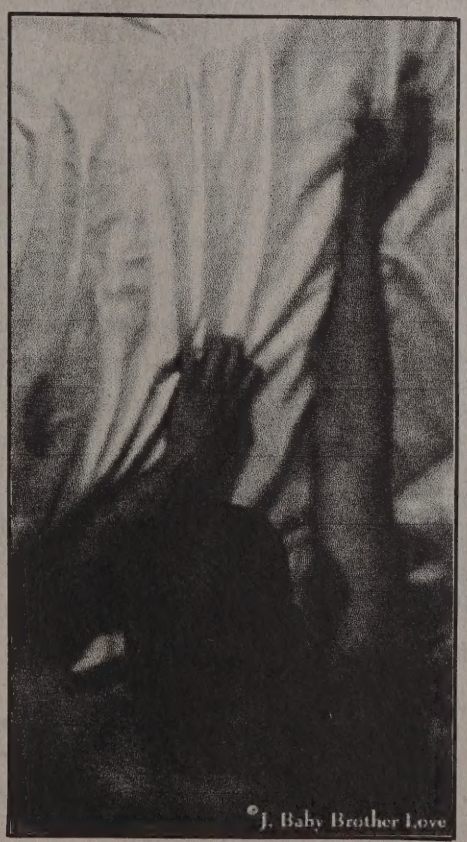

Social Night
a gathering
for brothers
every
Thursday
from 6-8 PM

For more information, call STOP AIDS African American Program a program of Howard Brown 1718 East 75th Street (773) 752-7867

WE ARE OFFERING FREE ANONYMOUS HIV ORASURE TESTING ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 FROM 4-6 PM
(service provided by CDPH Mobile Testing Unit)

"Why should I prolong my life if the medicine will keep me from enjoying it?"

If this is what you believe, then here's something new to consider.

Treatments and what we know about HIV are changing. We've learned that even if you look good and feel healthy, the virus is fighting every day against your immune system—a fight it may someday win.

VIRACEPT is a powerful new protease inhibitor now available for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. VIRACEPT is generally well-tolerated, is taken three times a day with your normal meals or light snacks, and requires no special dietary restrictions.

Most importantly, VIRACEPT is effective. In many people, VIRACEPT lowered the amount of HIV in the blood to levels below the limit of detection of the test used, and substantially increased CD4 cell counts after 24 weeks of triple combination therapy. And in laboratory studies, HIV obtained from five patients that became resistant to VIRACEPT was not resistant to other protease inhibitors. (The clinical significance of laboratory studies of protease inhibitor resistance and changes in viral RNA levels in blood has not been established for VIRACEPT. The virus may still be present in other organ systems.)

People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea in approximately 20% of people in clinical trials. There are some common medications and some AIDS-related medications you should not take with VIRACEPT. It is important to discuss with your doctor all other medications that you are taking.

We still can't make any long-term promises, since it is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. But we can tell you that yesterday's HIV beliefs are quickly becoming today's myths.

Talk to your doctor about VIRACEPT, and begin to consider something new. Or for more details, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit **www.agouron.com**.

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Refer to the important information on the next page.

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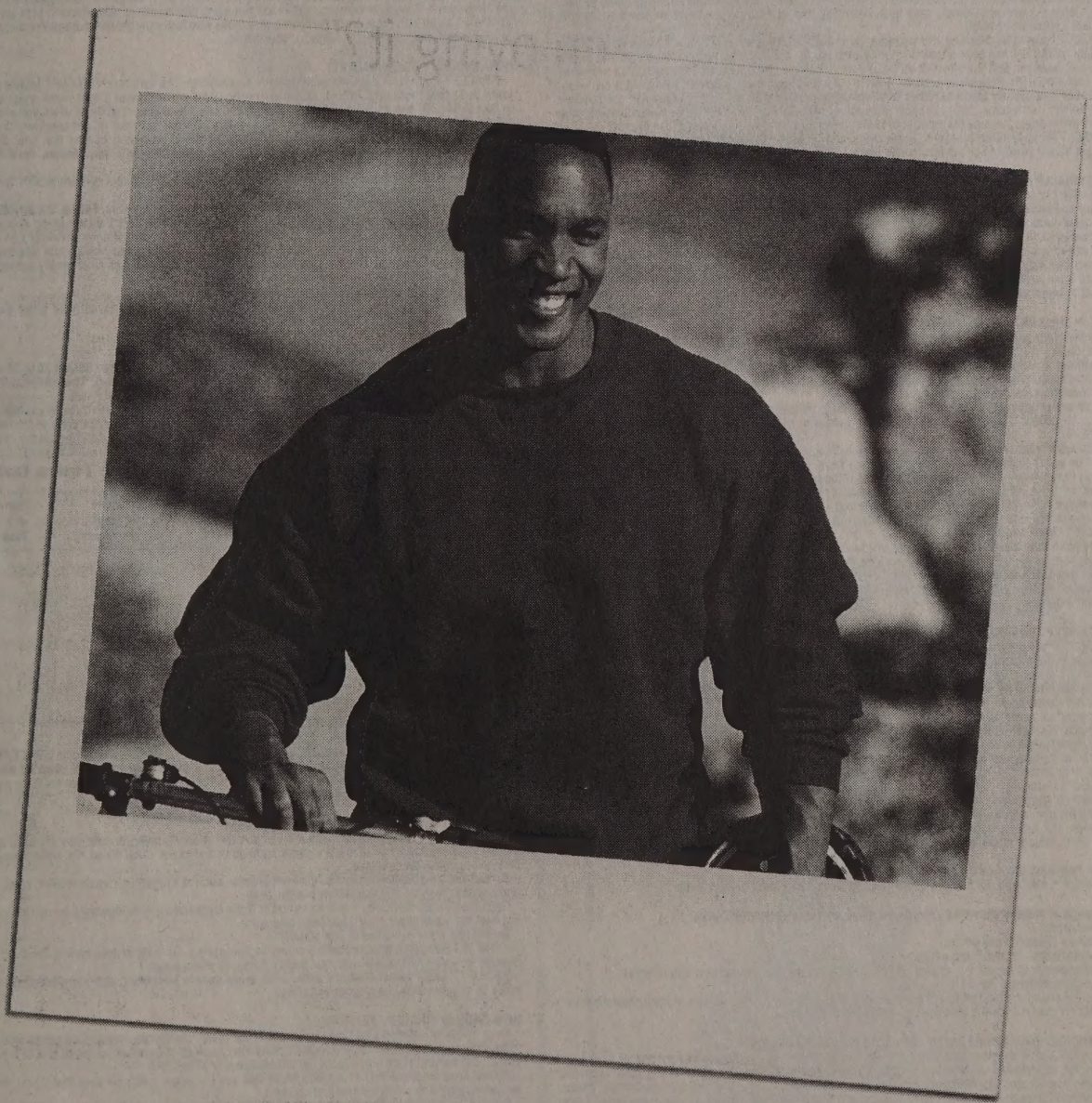

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nelfinavir mesylate

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For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

  Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.
- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®

  This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

  These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.
- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

  If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)

  The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.
- Other NNRTIs

  VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)

  The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Norvir™ (ritonavir)

  The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase® (saquinavir)

  The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do **not** have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight Kg	Body Weight Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	-
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1¼	-
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1½	-
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1¾	-
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	-
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2¼	-
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2½	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3¾	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: **A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication** should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do **not** mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do **not** heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do **not** add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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CALL 1.888.VIRACEPT

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Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
La Jolla, California, 92037, USA

Zimbabwean Lesbian Visits Chicago

by Jon Dallas

Chipo (Tina) Machida has been 'on the run' for several years because she is a lesbian. While on a four-week tour of the United States, Machida spent a week in Chicago [Oct. 15-20] telling the story of how difficult it is for gay people to live in Zimbabwe.

In a trip sponsored by the Africa Office of the United Church of Christ [UCC] and the Disciples of Christ, Machida represented Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe [GALZ]. The UCC and the Disciples of Christ are all-inclusive denominations that recognize all people regardless of their sexual orientation or cultural identity.

GALZ is the only lesbian and gay organization in Zimbabwe and is composed of Blacks, Whites and Coloreds. GALZ became known around the world because of the anti-gay rhetoric of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe. In July 1995, Mugabe shut down a book exhibit organized by GALZ during the Harare International Book Fair. Explaining his action, he declared that homosexuals had "no rights at all" and that they were "worse than dogs and pigs" and should be cast out of African culture.

Zimbabwean church leaders did not take long to start weighing in on the matter. The Zimbabwe Council of Churches, the main ecumenical body of Zimbabwean churches, which is UCC related, stated agreement with the president on behalf of the mainline Protestant religious community.

Complicating the council's response is the fact that Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, is the venue for the assembly of the World Council of Churches in December 1998. The World Council of Churches, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, is made up of a federation of religious organizations from around the world. While making a public show of support for Mugabe, the Zimbabwean Council of Churches moved quietly behind the scenes to assure the World Council of Churches, on behalf of the Mugabe government, that gay and lesbian delegates to the Assembly would not be harassed or barred entry to the country.

Church of the Open Door pastors Karen Hutt (left) and Alma Crawford (right) with Chipo (Tina) Machida. Photo: Israel Wright

Prior to starting her four-week tour of the U.S., Machida addressed the World Council of Churches with another GALZ colleague in Geneva. During this important visit, the lesbian activist requested that the federation of churches include lesbian and gay rights on its agenda during the 1998 assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Machida addressed two UCC congregations in Chicago. They were Church of the Open Door and University Church. Other community organizations Machida addressed included Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays, Lesbigay Radio 750AM, and Public Radio WBEZ 91.5FM. Machida spoke of the "Stone Wall" type of struggle that GALZ is going through as well as the need for outreach for single Black lesbians and their children in her home country.

Machida stated that the unemployment rate is high in Zimbabwe among Blacks. As a result, Machida has organized a GALZ outreach organization that is involved with generating income for Black lesbians who are unemployed, called Ngoni Chaidzo, meaning sisters of mercy. Ngoni Chaidzo exists to help Black lesbians and their children.

Even though it is possible that Mugabe only used the gay bashing card as a short-term electoral device to attract votes of conservative church members, his public rhetoric may put into motion hate-motivated dynamics [such as gay lynchings or withdrawal of civil rights from gays and lesbians] that may not be easily contained in the future.

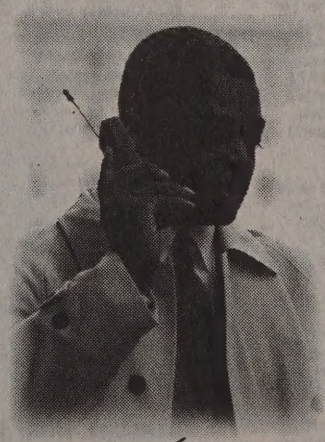
Concerned members of the Black community can contact the following organizations and individuals to let them know that Mugabe's comments cannot and will not be tolerated. Below are addresses for correspondence.

Office of the President
Pvt Bag 7700
Causeway
Harare, Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe Council of Churches
PO Box 3566
Harare, Zimbabwe

GALZ
Pvt Bag A 6131
Harare, Zimbabwe

The General Secretary
World Council of Churches
PO Box 2100
CH-1211
Geneva 2, Switzerland

HIV Positive?
Riding a wave of health? Don't know what to do next?
CONTACT

HORIZONS
Psychotherapy Services
773.929.4357
H.E.L.P

CALENDAR

Wednesday, Oct. 29

Community Forum On Gay And Lesbian Domestic Violence 6:30pm. Free. Horizons Community Services, 961 W. Montana. (773) 472-6469.

Lesbian Community Cancer Project "Breast Cancer And The Environment: Is Pollution Putting Us At Risk?" 7-9pm. Loyola University Downtown Campus, 41 E. Pearson Street. Free. (773) 561-4662.

Sidetrack Night of A Hundred Drag Queens Contest.

Women and Children First Daphne Scholinski: *The Last Time I Wore A Dress*, 7:30pm. 5233 N Clark, (773) 769-9299.

Thursday, Oct. 30

GAMBA Discussion group for gay and bisexual men. Collaboration of the Brothers Community Awareness Network (Brothers C.A.N.) and Minority Outreach & Intervention Project (MOIP). Social Night gathering for brothers,. 6pm-8pm. 1255 S. Wabash, (312) 986-0661.

Horizons Youth/Young Adult Drop-In Ages 14-20. Northside 6 to 8pm, 961 W Montana. Southside 3739 S. Indiana @37th, 1 block E of Michigan, 2 blocks W of King. (773) 472-6469.

Paris Dance *Les Femmes Amies* Halloween Party. Free gift to first 25 in costume before 10pm. Cash prize for best costume! 1122 W Montrose, (773) 675-0207.

Women and Children First Jamaica Kincaid: *My Brother, A Memoir*. Internationally renowned writer Kincaid reads from her memoir to her brother, who died from AIDS in 1996 at age 33. 7:30pm. 5233 N Clark, (773) 769-9299.

Friday, Oct. 31

Cafe Pride Halloween party for youth, 8pm-midnight. Lake View Presbyterian Church, 716 W. Addison. (773) 784-2635.

Closet Drag King and Queen Contest and Party, 7pm-10pm.

Cocktail "Prescription" The Cure For The Common Club with Milly & Tillie. Every Friday and Saturday. $2 domestic draught and .50 house shots. 3359 N Halsted, (773) 477-1420. A "Bewitched" Halloween.

Girlbar Retro Halloween Costume Party/ 2625 N Halsted, (773) 871-4210, 20 E. Irving Park Rd., Bensenville, (630) 595-3550.

HOMORAMA! Queer all-ages dance. 8pm, $5. 1914 N. Milwaukee Ave (Milwaukee/Western). (773) 687-2000, ext. 4006.

Lesbigay Radio's Halloween Monster Mash. The Patch, 201-155th St., Calumet City. $5 cover. (888) WE ARE GAY.

Paris Dance Last Halloween Party. No cover if in costume. Judging at midnight for $500 cash prizes. Salsa begins midnight. (773) 769-0602.

Test Positive Aware Network Halloween Party co-sponsored by TPAN's Brothers United In Support program, the Minority Outreach Intervention Project, and Brother 2 Brother. DJ Ron Carroll, $15 adv., $20 door (773) 404-3784.

Saturday, Nov. 1

ADODI Book discussion: "Honey, Honey, Miss Thang" by Leon Pettiway. Book available at Afrocentric Bookstore. 1255 S Wabash, Floor 2. (312) 458-9584.

DuSable Museum of African-American History "The Lady Turns 80" tribute celebration on the 80th birthday of Dr. Margaret G. Burroughs, founder of the DuSable Museum. 6pm, 740 E. 56th Place. $80+. (773) 947-0600 ext. 224.

Howard Brown Health Center Annual benefit, "Revel With A Cause," Black tie gala and silent auction, Chicago Hilton, (773) 871-5777, ext. 391 or ext. 370.

Sunday, Nov. 2

Big Chick's Women's Spoken Word. Open mic. 7:30pm. Sign-up

Jamaica Kincaid autographs copies of her new book, *My Brother, A Memoir*, about her brother's fight with society's pressures against homosexuality, and about his death from AIDS complications, Thursday, Oct. 30 at Women & Children First.

7:15pm. Free. 5024 N Sheridan, (773) 262-2684

Dignity Chicago *Claiming the Promise* Bible Series, 4pm-5pm, Broadway United Methodist Church, 3344 Broadway. (773) 348-2679.

Touche 20th Anniversary Bash featuring Honey West. 6412 N. Clark (at Devon). (773) 465-7400.

Monday, Nov. 3

Bill T. Jones Dancer, choreographer, and outspoken advocate for AIDS treatment and research in the dance community performs. 6pm, The School Of The Art Institute of Chicago, 280 S. Columbus Dr. (312) 443-3711.

Horizons Community Services Southside Youth/Young Adult Drop-In. 6pm-8pm, ages 14-23. 3739 S. Indiana (773) 472-6469.

GAMBA for gay and bisexual men. Collaboration of the Brothers Community Awareness Network (Brothers C.A.N.) and MOIP. Tonight: Cafe Noir safer sex discussion group, 6pm-8pm. 1255 S. Wabash, (312) 986-0661.

Lesbian and Gay Marching Band Rehearsal, 941 W. Lawrence. 7-9pm. (773) 743-5738.

Tuesday, Nov. 4

HIVPAC Bi-monthly meeting. Harold Washington Library, lower level, 400 S. State. 6:30-8:30pm. HIV-PAC strives to enhance the quality of life of people living with HIV through advocacy, community involvement, education, and self-empowerment. (773) 821-5620.

Wednesday, Nov. 5

1997 CAIR Conference Italian Community Center, Milwaukee, WI. $30 includes lunch; (800) 644-1615. The Center for AIDS Intervention Research.

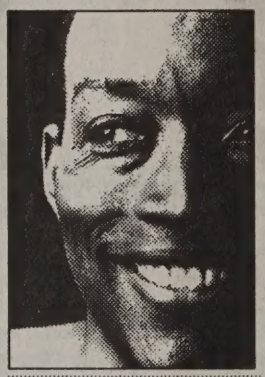
"Out In The Workforce" panel discussion. 6:30pm-9pm, Egan Urban Center, 243 S. Wabash, 9th Flr, DePaul U., Jackson & Wabash. (773) 687-1878.

Thursday, Nov. 6

GAMBA Discussion group for gay and bisexual men. (312) 986-0661.

Paris Dance *Les Femmes Amies* Don't Stop! The Music - The Party - The Dance. 1122 W Montrose, (773) 675-0207.

Friday, Nov. 7



Bill T. Jones, Nov. 3.

Reeling '97 The 17th Annual Chicago Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. Thru Nov. 20. See page 22, or call (773) 384-5533.

Saturday, Nov. 8

Chicago 35 1997 Autumn Gayla Dance. 8pm, Ann Sather's, 929 W Belmont. (773) 381-3853.

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network Youth Activist Day at DePaul University for high school age activists and school staff working to end homophobia in their schools. Free to participants, light lunch included. RSVP to Toni Armstrong Jr., c/o GLSEN, 5210 N Wayne, Chicago, IL 60640-2223.

Illinois Federation for Human Rights "A Statement for Freedom 4" Cabaret-style benefit at the Park West. Co-hosted by Dominic Hamilton-Little and Mary Morten. 7pm cocktails, 8pm show. The Park West, 322 W. Armitage. (773) 477-7173. Performances by A Real Read, Dave Awl, Eric Lane Barnes, Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, Kurt Heintz, Joel Hall Dancers, David Kodeski, Mollycoddle, Patty "Elvis," Robert Rodi, She Devils, Edward Thomas-Herrera, Marcia Wilkie.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children Deidre McCalla, 7:30pm. 1650 W. Foster, 7:30 p.m., (773) 973-9934.

Sunday, Nov.9

Paris Dance Catch Ya Later Cowboy. Cover 6pm, food 7pm, dance lessons 5pm. 1122 W Montrose, (773) 769-0602.

Monday, Nov.10

GAMBA Discussion group for gay and bisexual men. (312) 986-0661.

Tuesday, Nov.11

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America 5th Annual Veterans Day Dinner with guest speaker Cpl. Edward Clayton, US Marine Corps. Ann Sather's, 929 W Belmont, 6:30pm-10:30pm. (773) 878-7950.

Test Positive Aware Network with the Marcus A. Conant Foundation Town Hall Meeting: *HIV Resistance And Its Effect On Your Treatment Choices*. 5:30pm-7:30pm, Chicago Marriott, 540 N. Michigan. (312) 836-0100.

Wednesday, Nov. 12

BE-HIV Positive Connections support group for heterosexuals living with HIV/AIDS. 7:30-9:30pm, 516 Church, Evanston. (847) 475-2115.

Berlin Women's Obsession Night. 954 W. Belmont. (773) 348-4975.

Celebrity Charity Chair Auction Westin River North, 6-10pm. $75 per person. (312) 527-5948. Proceeds go to Deborah's Place (women's shelters), Eric Neighborhood House (community-based social services), Horizons for Youth (support for inner city youth), The Music Center of the North Shore (music therapy) and Open Hand Chicago (delivered meals for people with AIDS). Some celebrities who have signed chairs, to date, include President Clinton, Bill Cosby, Whoopi Goldberg, Muhammad Ali.

GAMBA Discussion group for gay and bisexual men. This week's topic: abusive relationships. 1255 S. Wabash, (312) 986-0661.

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force *Creating Change*, 10th annual conference, Nov. 12-16 in San Diego. Call (202) 332-6483.

Thursday, Nov. 13

GAMBA Discussion group for gay and bisexual men. Tonight: Social Night gathering for brothers,. 6pm-8pm. (312) 986-0661.

Girlbar Party in honor of Cheryl Dunye, director of the lesbian hit film *Watermelon Woman*. 11pm. 2625 N Halsted. (773) 384-5533.

Lesbian Community Cancer Project Women Fronted Bands at the Lounge Ax. $10 at door. 2438 N. Lincoln Ave., (773) 561-4662. Butter, Joygirl, Pal, and Plume.

Paris Dance Adieu Paris Noir with *Les Femmes Amies*. Bringing Down The House Paris Noir Farewell Party. Door prizes, cover $10. ID required. 1122 W Montrose, (773) 675-0207.

Reeling 97 9:15pm, *The Watermelon Woman*. Music Box 3733 Southport. (773) 384-5533.

Friday, Nov. 14

1st Annual Anti-Racism Film Festival. The Anti-Racism Institute of Clergy and Laity Concerned in conjunction with the Community Film Workshop, DuSable Museum of African-American History, and Latino Cultural Center at UIC present the 1st Annual "Anti-Racism Film Festival" Nov. 14, 15, 21 and 22. (312) 630-1960.

Ameritech Jazz At Symphony Center, Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter Orchestra Hall, 8 pm. (312) 294-3000.

Music Box Theater *Watermelon Woman*, Thru Nov. 21. 3733 N. Southport, (773) 871-6604.

Studs United International One-year anniversary Players Ball & Shay's homecoming, featuring T.O.B.Y. 8 p.m.-3 a.m., Michelle's Ballroom, 2800 W. Belmont. Show midnight. Entrees by Chef Lamont. $10 cover. Call (773) 323-0122.

Saturday, Nov. 15

PAC Social Club For Mature Lesbians of African Descent (25+). First event 10pm-3am at Bridge Club, 515 E. 79th Street. Snail mail PO Box 578734, Chicago IL 60657-8734. pacsocailc@aol.com or cef446@aol.com.

Paris Dance Last Dance. Open 8pm. $20. Buffet, open bar til 10pm, raffle tickets for best of Paris memorabilia prize at midnight. 1122 Montrose, (773) 769-0602.

Sunday, Nov.16

Coalition for Positive Sexuality Training for volunteers interested in providing teens with progressive sex education, poster, video, and Web projects. 2pm-4pm. 59 E Van Buren, 17th Floor. (773) 604-1654.

Monday, Nov. 17

GAMBA Tonight: Cafe Noir safer sex discussion group, 6pm-8pm. 1255 S. Wabash, (312) 986-0661.

Steppenwolf Theater. Steppenwolf continues the second season of its critically acclaimed inter-arts performance series, *Traffic*, with an evening of dramatic and musical interpretation of the works of Leon Forrest. Dubbed America's "black Faulkner", Forrest is the author of *Divine Days, There Is A Tree More Ancient Than Eden*, and *Two Wings To Veil My Face*. 1650 N. Halsted, $25.

Thursday, Nov.20

GAMBA Social Night gathering for brothers,. 6pm-8pm. 1255 S. Wabash, (312) 986-0661.

Randolph Street Gallery Dyke-Warrior Prayers. featuring Sonja Parks. Written by Sharon Bridgforth. $8, 756 N. Milwaukee. (312) 409-7609. Sponsored by Affinity, The Literary Exchange, Randolph State Gallery.

Women & Children First Dorothy Roberts reads from *Killing The Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty*. 7:30. 5233 Clark, (773) 769-9299.

Saturday, Nov.22

Club Escape Thanksgiving fundraiser for Minority Outreach Intervention Project's contribution to the African-American and Latino lesbigaytrans community. 8pm-2am. $10. 1530 E 75th, (773) 667-6454.

Monday, Nov.24

GAMBA Cafe Noir safer sex discussion group, 6pm-8pm. 1255 S. Wabash, (312) 986-0661.

Tuesday, Nov.25

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network "Video Review" of some of the best videos that address gay and lesbian issues in education. 7pm, Conrad Sulzer Library, 4455 N. Lincoln.

Wednesday, Nov. 26

GAMBA Current gay legislation. 1255 S. Wabash, (312) 986-0661.

Star Plaza Theatre The O'Jays, Bernie Mac and the Whispers, Nov. 26-29, (219) 769-6600.

Thursday, Nov. 27

Crobar, Frankie Knuckles.

Friday, Nov.28

Southern Girls First Thanksgiving Ball, 9pm-4am, Ebony and Ivory Entertainment 251 Court Ave., Memphis, TN. (901) 743-6563.

Wednesday, Dec. 3

House of Blues, Aretha Franklin in concert, (312) 923-2023.

featuring
sonja parks

written by
sharon bridgforth

root wy'mn theatre company

Presents

Dyke/warrior-prayers

Thursday, November 20th at 7:00pm
Randolph Street Gallery
756 N. Milwaukee
Admission: $8.00

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Muntu Celebrates Silver Anniversary

'Fat Tuesday' Premier Caps Silver Anniversary Season

by Robert Schultz

Muntu has something to shout about! From its humble beginnings in a Chicago Park District Fieldhouse in Grand Crossing, Muntu Dance Theatre has grown into a world-class artistic troop with an international reputation that brings to life centuries of African-influenced culture. Muntu is celebrating its 25th year. A superbly polished troupe whose dance reflects cultural expression ranging from West Africa to the locales of the African Diaspora including New Orleans, Harlem, and Brazil, Muntu delivers on its billing as dance theatre. Authoritative authenticity pours out of Muntu's performance transcending the troop's Chicago origins. Song, music, dance and theatre are skillfully combined in each piece.

The highlight of the anniversary season will be the premiere of the reconstruction of "Fat Tuesday and All that Jazz." A cast of 40 includes the famed Olympia Brass Band, contemporary practitioners of an authentic second line Crescent City sound. "Fat Tuesday" is a performance document of the traditions and folkways of Mardi Gras.

Arthur Hall created the staging and choreography for "Fat Tuesday." Muntu's artistic director Amaniyea Payne stars as Marie Laveaux the Voodoo Queen. Linking Black American Mardi Gras traditions with an African antecedent in the ballet's overture, "Fat Tuesday" is a ballet using the Mardi Gras for its setting and narrative.

"Fat Tuesday's" story is one of love, betrayal and revenge. "Fat Tuesday's" plot incorporates the little know culture of the Mardi Gras Indian Tribes. Mardi Gras Indians are the fabled descendants of runaway slaves and indigenous Americans who use their interpretation of American Indian culture and transformed it into a new cultural tradition. Mardi Gras Indiana Tribes gather in the Black neighborhoods on Mardi Gras day to challenge

The Muntu drummers (above) and Amaniyea Payne as Marie Laveaux the 'Voodoo Queen' (below).

one another in costume, dance, and bravado. The drama of two lover's engagement and betrayal is played against the backdrop of this rich cultural tradition.

The Olympia Brass Band provides the music and their presence is woven into the action of the ballet. Olympia plays a music that Louis Armstrong heard as a boy. New Orleans' music has always been the site of cross pollination from various music forms. The source material of this musical tradition will be brought alive by Olympia Brass and forms the seminal basis for what we hear today in New Orleans' music's progeny that includes jazz, funk, rhythm and blues, hip hop and even rock.

A major premier such as "Fat Tuesday" and the participation in DanceAfrica are but two major stagings that have occurred during this anniversary year. Last summer Muntu collaborated with a Curubande, an equally prestigious dance company from Costa Rica. "Nos Movemos Como Uno Solo (We Move As One)" was the result. As an exploration of the African connection to Hispanic Culture the work evolved from the common language of dance as neither artistic director spoke the other's language. Both groups jointly performed the resulting creation that ensued from the collaboration of their female artistic directors.

Muntu has about 20 members and guest artists, and is the Dance Company in residence at Kennedy-King College. Founded in 1972 by Alyo Tolbert, the troop began working with performers who were interested in exploring their African heritage. Muntu stays close to the community through classes and workshops. Muntu means the essence of humanity. The company uses dance as a way of making the connection with people. If you have not seen this strong cultural institution in performance, you are doing yourself a disservice.

"Fat Tuesday and all that Jazz" is exclusively sponsored by the Sara Lee Foundation and will be performed Dec. 11-14 at the Katherine Dunham Theatre at Kennedy-King College, 6800 S. Wentworth Ave. Adult tickets are $15. There will be an African Marketplace. Call (773) 602-1135 for more information.

Muntu opens DanceAfrica with Kinetic Performance

Dancers and musicians of the Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago, costumed in brightly colored African garb, snaked onto the stage at the Museum of Contemporary Art in an enthralling performance that kicked off this year's DanceAfrica series (held Oct. 24-26) .

Capturing the kinetic beat created by the troop, Muntu's performers commandeered the stage in a parade-like opening number. The African cadence, topped by a joyous riff blown on a fife-like instrument, was punctuated with polyrhythmic accents seasoned by shekeres, the African gourd instrument surrounded by beads. Other performers in the festive procession stoked the pulse with hand instruments of claves, cowbells, and talking drum. The drum choir consisted of three djembe players and a fourth playing a pair of djun-djun, the lower sounding drum.

Using the call and response format often found in the African music traditions, dancer and assistant artistic director Vaune Blalock taught the audience the chorus of "Fanga." "Fanga," a Liberian welcoming dance performed when merchants arrive at a seaport, evoked the communal traditions of the African continent. When the audience joined Muntu by singing "Fanga's" chorus, Muntu re-created the experience in dance. Blalock stated that one of Katherine Dunham's original dancers was responsible for bringing this dance to the U.S. This comment was typical of the educational component so

Turn to next page

Arts & Theatre

THEATRE

Openings

Nov. 3: **The Perjured City** or **The Awakening of the Furies,** Helen Cixous' modern Greek tragedy. In politics, medicine, law, and art, greed and corruption are pitted against an urban backdrop of homelessness, AIDS, and political and material dispossession. Aeschylus, an ancient Greek playwright playing cemetery caretaker, awakens the Furies on behalf of a grieving mother and society. Activists and runaways form the chorus. At the Holy Covenant United Methodist Church, by Streetsigns, (773) 296-1875.

Nov. 5: **RENT** Shubert. Ticketmaster, (312) 902-1500, or in person at the box office.

Nov. 6: **Chi-Chi-Chi!** Created collectively by the Latino Chicago ensemble of actors, text by Migdalia Cruz, directed by Juan A. Ramierz and Meighan Gerachis. Latino Chicago Thtr Co at The Firehouse thru Dec. 21. (773) 486-5120.

Nov. 11: **Theater Q Series** continues with *The Boom Box*, by Craig Lucas, a one act about love after death as two casualties of AIDS come to see their Quilt panels. Also this evening, *Water Nymphs*, by Koulias, and scenes from *The Shadow Box*, by Michael Cristofer, at Sheil Park, 3505 N. Southport. The series of ten plays continues every Tuesday night 7:30p.m. thru December 9. $5 donation at the door. (773) 271-9287

Nov. 13: **It's My Party,** based on the 1996 film. Benefits John Keets Foundation and Friends of People with AIDS. Apollo Fine Arts and Entertainment Center Peoria, (309) 673-4343.

Nov. 15: **A Traditional Kind of Woman - Too Much, Not 'Nuff'".** Domestic violence, HIV/AIDS and racism in Chichimec / Otomi cultural and family life by storytellers, playwrights and performance artists Elvira and Hortensia Colorado, part of *Sor Juana, a Tribute to Mexican Women Festival,* Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, 7, $12. (312) 738-1503

Nov. 20: **Dyke/warrior-prayers**, written by Sharon Bridgforth, performed by Sonja Parks, sponsored by Affinity and The Literary Exchange, presented by Root Wy'mn Theatre Company at the Randolph Street Gallery, 756 N. Milwaukee, $8, limited (312) 409-7609.

Nov. 21: **No Mo Blues**, a new one-woman performance presented by Root Wy'mn Theatre Company, which is committed to the herstory of Africkan American women's stories inclusive of and sensitive to the issues of lesbian and women of color globally. Thru Nov. 23, Randolph Street Gallery. (312) 666-7737.

In Performance

Late Nite Catechism Ivanhoe Thtr, (773) 975-7171.

Mr. Nanny Vicki Quade, co-creator of the smash hit Late Nite Catechism, introduces her new show starring Second City's Jimmy Doyle as a parent for the 90s and beyond, finding purpose and finding family by being– Mr. Nanny! Bailiwick, thru Nov. 9. $15.(773) 883-1090. Moving Nov. 15 to Ivanhoe Thtr, open run. (773) 975-7171.

A Red Death Walter Mosley's "natural born existentialist" street smart detective Easy Rawlins hits the stage in this Chicago Theatre Company adaptation, thru Nov. 9, (773) 493-5360.

The Sum of Us Harry and his young gay son, Jeff, search for significant others in Melbourne, Australia, exploring aspects of intimacy from cuddling to lavender floor polish. Their inner ramblings bring out their hopes, for themselves and each other. Lucid Thtr, thru Nov. 1. (773) 784-0725.

Theater Q Series continues with a staged reading of The *Normal Heart* by Larry Kramer. The companion piece *The Destiny of Me*, will be read on Nov. 4, at Sheil Park, 3505 N. Southport. The series of ten plays continues every Tuesday night 7:30p.m. thru Dec. 9. $5 donation at the door. (773) 271-9287

DANCE

Dance Chicago '97, continues with Cerqua/Rivera performing Nov. 5 and 26. *Forward Motion*, contemporary, including *XSIGHT!*, Nov. 5 and Nov. 26. *One World Dance tour*, international styles Nov. 2, 23. *Breaking Boundaries*, experimental and modern Nov. 19. *Choreographer's Showcase*, independent choreographers, Oct. 29, Nov. 22, 28. *Jazz It UP!*, Oct. 31, Nov. 29, *Driving Rhythms*, Nov. 1, 12, 21. *River North Dance Co.* Nov. 7,8,14,15, 16. Athenaeum Thtr, $15 (except River North Dance Co., $20-25, and Dance for Kids, Too!) Tix at Ticketmaster, info at (773) 935-6860.

ART/PHOTO

Aldo Castillo Gallery *Playground*, solo exhibition of South African artist Lorna Marsh, a tribute to the spirits of the children of Africa and everywhere in a modern wasteland of technological and political boundaries. Thru Nov. 25. (312) 337-2536.

The Dusable Museum of African American History *Amistad* In 1839, on the Spanish slave ship La Amistad, 39 African captives, led by Cinque, rebelled and were captured off the Eastern seaboard after failing in a desperate attempt to return home. A civil rights battle then continued for two years in prisons, town greens, the courtrooms of Connecticut and the Supreme Court. The display begins in the Mende (African) village, and includes the capture, revolt, trial and return. Ship records, graphics, maps, reproductions of correspondence are part of the 5,000 sq. ft interactive exhibit. Simulated dock pilings hold telephones which narrate the story, Nov. 18 thru June 30, 1998. Harold Washington In Office, a permanent exhibition, features composite office setting comprised of memorabilia and personal effects from the life and career of Harold Washington. Call for adjusted hours thru November. (312) 947-0600.

Woman Made Gallery 1900 S. Prairie.*Women's Folk Art*, a multi-cultural look at naive, self-taught and folk representations by women, juried by gallery owner Judith Racht, includes mixed media sculptures to colored pencil drawing, embroidery to oils. Oct. 31 thru Nov. 21; (312) 328-0038

MUNTU from 14

craftily interwoven into the company's performances.

The women of Muntu danced the Basket dance of Pigmy people of the Congo. Muntu's men then had a chance to show of their dance prowess in "Doudoumba: the Dance of the Strong Men." Like club kids who use "styling" on a dance floor, "Doudoumba" shares the same aesthetic as dance becomes an artful combat between inspired performers.

Closing with "Lamban: the Dance of the Griots" drummers and dancers alike took impassioned solos where the pyrotechnics of the djembe players fused with the choreography, kicks, and tumbling of the troop left the audience stimulated by the power of the Muntu company.

—Robert Schultz

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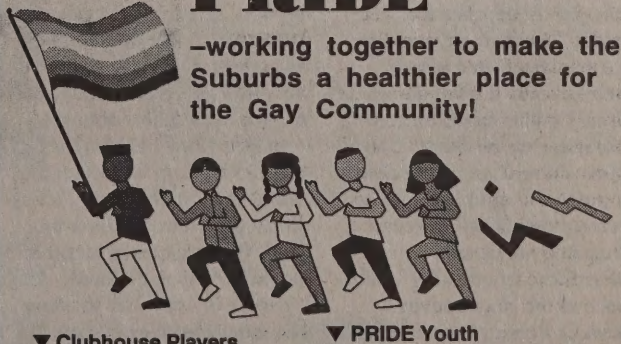

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AIDS Walk 8 May Miss $2 Million Goal

Board expansion target April '98; People of Color Coalition leaders involved

by P.J. Engelbrecht

The $2 million fundraising goal for AIDS Walk 8, which took place Sept. 28, was expected to set an organizational record. Now, AIDS Walk's executive director Paul Hook believes reaching that financial goal may be impossible.

On Oct. 21, Hook estimated that "by the end of the year, we will fall short of our goal. ... Ultimately, I think we'll reach $1.9 million." Hook's revised projection considers all 1997 donations and contributions—both individual and corporate giving of all types. Revenues, such as interest income and sweatshirt sales, account for about $400,000 of the total.

Final numbers will not be available until March 1998, because "sponsorships and donations come in ... through the end of the year," Hook said, although "a very good estimate" will be available as an "unaudited number" around Jan. 1.

AIDS Walk 8 itself drew approximately 60,000 participants to the 6.4-mile lakefront course, along with 600 volunteers. Many walkers were persons with AIDS, clients of AIDS Walk's 12 constituent agencies. Not all walkers had raised pledges; some walked alongside 'official' participants 'for fun.'

Reasons for the charity's anticipated shortfall are impossible to pinpoint, though Hook offered several possibilities. He cited increasing public apathy towards the lengthening 'AIDS crisis' as the No. 1 problem. "John Q. Public ... could believe the crisis is over; [also, it's] year eight of the AIDS Walk, year 17 or 20 of the crisis. ... We're tired. ... People don't see a cure around the corner."

Increasing competition among AIDS fundraisers for charitable dollars may also diminish each group's piece of the pie, according to Hook.

The Sunday of the Walk, the People of Color Coalition (PCC) boycotted the event, as promised. About 25 PCC members and supporters distributed over 2,000 red arm bands to walkers at the step-off. The bands symbolized solidarity with the PCC position that AIDS Walk "discriminates" against communities and people of color by excluding them from the AIDS Walk governing board and from the consortium of 12 agencies which receive most of the funds raised.

Media reports suggesting that most, maybe all the walkers wearing the armbands were ignorant of the symbol's intended meaning were hotly denied by PCC leader Martín González-Rojas. "It wasn't a fashion statement," said González. "[The boycott] certainly was very successful. ... We wanted to do something not disruptive; it was very quietly done ... [and] a lot of people did know about it."

Hook believes the boycott did have an impact on the Walk—and on the charity's less-than-optimal fundraising this year. "The charges of racism did not help," Hook declared.

In fact, Hook believes the boycott did have an impact on the Walk—and on the charity's less-than-optimal fundraising this year. "The charges of racism did not help," Hook declared. "There's no way way to gauge the impact [of the boycott], but some people have said 'I'll never do that [Walk] again'." Hook referred to PCC stickers on city buses as one way the boycott was effectively advertised; he declined to specify how many people contacted him directly to say they had joined the boycott and were withdrawing from Walk participation.

Hook still perceives a public relations problem stemming from the boycott and accusations of discrimination. He feels the controversy distracted people from the Walk's true purposes. "All the time spent dealing with charges of racism is time not spent raising money ... [and] ultimately, it's PWA's who ... suffer," as Hook sees it.

González, himself an HIV+ Latino, does not dispute the importance of AIDS Walk as a resource: "We have never questioned the services of the member agencies. ... We just want them to include us at every level."

The PCC boycott apparently has had positive effects on AIDS Walk governance. Coalition demands for increased representation of communities and people of color on the board of directors are being addressed by the board, albeit slowly. When PCC protested at AIDS Walk offices in August, Hook promised that the board would consider how to expand, to become more diversely inclusive; he said the discussions would take place at the September board retreat and regularly scheduled September and October board meetings. Just before the Oct. 21 board meeting, Hook said the board had already "come up with selection criteria [and] a list of names" of potential new board members, and that the board had hired consultants to interview a wide range of Walk board members and volunteers, community group members and other individuals "about input on board expansion" and that the board had then shared the collected information with the interviewees at a recent reception.

PCC leaders Renae Ogletree and Martín González-Rojas were among those asked for input and interviewed, and they are now among those persons being considered for membership on the AIDS Walk board of directors, as are Coalition members Ben Williams and Omar Lopez.

Following the Oct. 21 meeting, Hook stated that "four to six" new non-agency-affiliated board members "will be elected to the board at the April [1998] meeting" and installed. To that end, by Dec. 31, the board "will have designed all the [final] interview tools and designed all the [selection] procedures ... and [will have] receive[d] additional candidates in the interview pool." He said that all interested candidates for the board would be interviewed between January and April 1998.

González said the Coalition was pleased with the progress, particularly that AIDS Walk had finally asked PCC for direct input, but he noted that so far, their action has been "just minor." "The question is [that] they are looking for [people to fill] non-member seats. My concern is the power. What role are they gonna play? Advisory, or are they gonna be able to vote? ... We do want qualified people there ... but it will be a waste of time to nominate [any] of us just to play an advisory role," González said.

"The bigger issues still need to be addressed," González explained. "People impacted with HIV need to have a voice at the table ... to be part of the decision-making process—and still we want 45% of total [AIDS Walk] funds to be set aside for [agencies in] communities of color. "We can work more closely with [AIDS Walk] to raise the general public awareness [about HIV/AIDS] ... but we have valid issues that have not been addressed, and [adding] the new seats does not do enough."

Hook continues to maintain that further actions—particularly the addition to the AIDS Walk consortium of HIV/AIDS service agencies in communities of color—cannot be undertaken until the new 'independent' board members are installed, reconstituting the board itself.

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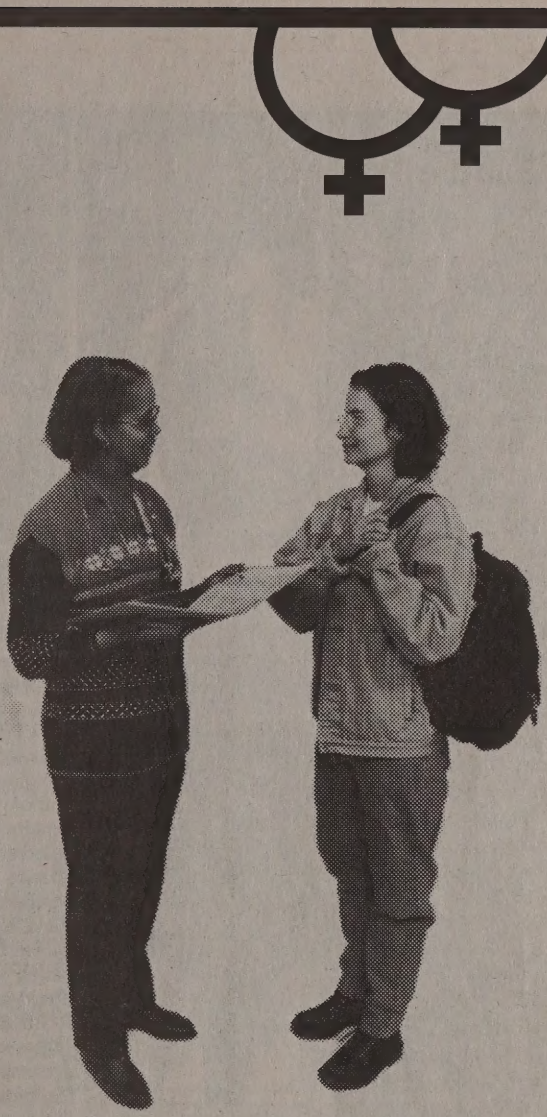

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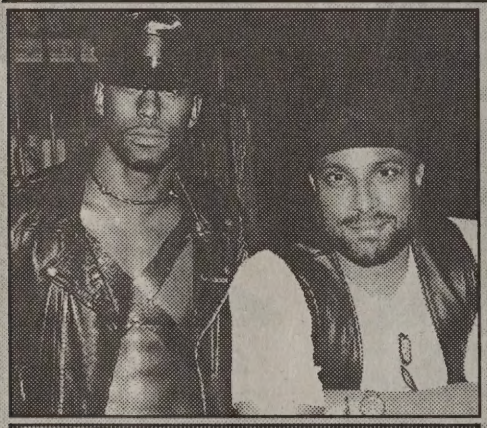
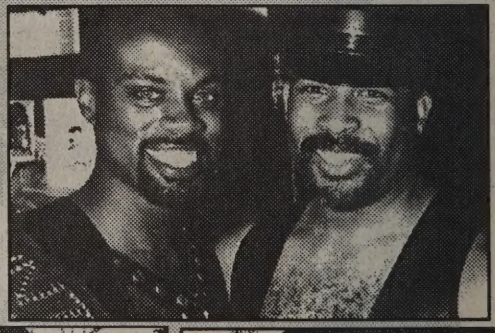
Otis Mack hosted his annual Diva Awards at the Baton last month. From left: An out-of-town performer; Amelia Black; Alicia Kelly; Otis Mack and Miss Ketty; Entertainer of the Year Indigo Blue (top right) and Heavy Diva of the Year Tasha Long.

Photos by Israel Wright

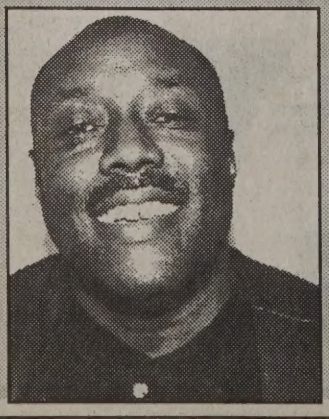
HOT PICS

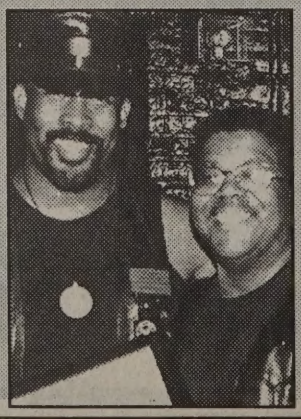


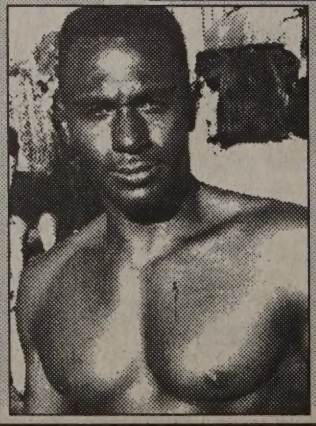
LEFT PHOTOS: At the Onyx anniversary weekend of events. ABOVE: Anthony and Michael at Cellblock. MIDDLE: David and Bill. BELOW: Charles Cole of Caliber Leathers; Mufasa (Onyx President) with Winford Williams of Private Baker, who received an award for his support. RIGHT SIDE OF PHOTOS were taken during International Mr. Drummer weekend in San Francisco in September. TOP: Black gay and lesbian titleholders pose during the Mr. Drummer contest. From left: Genelle Moore (International Ms. Leather), Mufasa, Janice, Ariq, Patrick, Keith and Stacy. MIDDLE: International Mr. Fantasy Ariq Robinson and Mufasa. BELOW: J.C. Carter at the Folsom Street Fair. Bobbie (bottom, right) in San Fran. Photos by Israel Wright

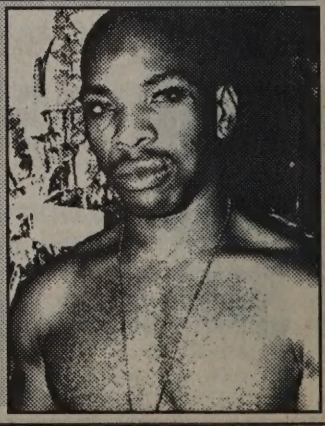


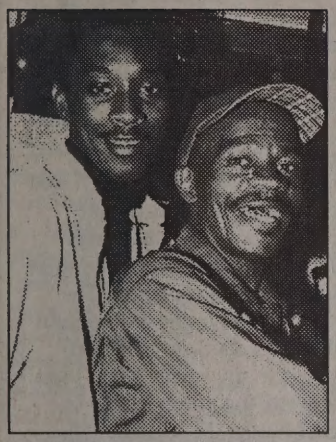
ONYX B-DAY





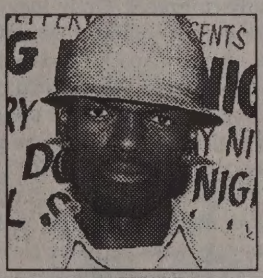


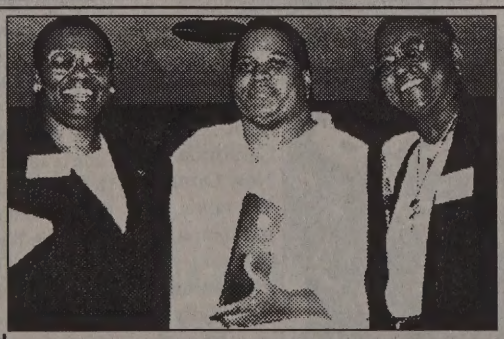




Lady V

Friends and family helped Lady V celebrate her birthday at Jeffery Pub recently. Lady V has DJ'd at Jeffery for many years, and more than 100 women and men turned out for the show and party. TOP, RIGHT: Lady V (back row, third from left) and family and friends. Front: Bernice (her mom), Nicole, Keli, Carol. Back row, left, Byron, Belinda. TOP, LEFT: DJ James M. with Ralph (who did the decorations). MIDDLE, LEFT: Lady LaBelle (who will also perform at Jacques Christion's 27th annual Halloween Ball Friday, Oct. 31, 99th & Troop; 773-955-0871). MIDDLE, RIGHT: Ella and Chris. BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT: Performing in 'drag' for the V show; Strutting on the dance floor; Bartender Mr. Lee; Chocolate and Aeriene; Toni and Donna at Jeffery Pub (which is at 7041 S. Jeffrey) celebrating V's birthday. Photos by Tracy Baim





YAHIMBA

YAHIMBA sponsored their annual conference in October, with keynote speaker Jackie Anderson, and special awards to LaJaunessee, Glynnis, and Jackie. A Real Read also performed. Pictured are some of the folks at this year's event. ABOVE, LEFT: Glynnis. MIDDLE: Jan Arthur, LaJaunessee and Jackie. RIGHT: Jackie, Renae Ogletree, Mary Morten. BELOW, LEFT: Artist Juarez Hawkins with Lisa Moore (editor of *does your mama know?*). RIGHT: WACT women Phyllis, Evette, Mary, Claire, Eiko and Sandra.

Photos by Tracy Baim

Janet Jackson Includes Gay Love, While the Winans Sisters Attack

by Gregg Shapiro

Janet Jackson (left) coming out as bisexual? The Winans (Angie, left, and Debbie) coming out with un-sisterly love.

Counting her latest, *The Velvet Rope* (Virgin), **Janet Jackson** has released six albums (including one greatest hits collection) since the mid-1980s. Coming four years since her last studio album, *The Velvet Rope* is the kind of album that shows the maturation of an artist in a way that you'll never, ever see on a Mariah Carey album. Self-sufficient, uncompromising, focused, Janet Jackson has made her boldest musical statement yet. Addressing such adult subjects as domestic abuse (the overwhelmingly powerful "What About"), sex ("My Need"), sex ("Go Deep"), and more sex (her lyrically in tact cover of Rod Stewart's "Tonight's The Night"), tolerance and acceptance (the Prince-ly "Free Xone" which includes same-sex love), AIDS ("Together Again"), sex ("Empty"), love ("Every Time"), bondage ("Rope Burn"), and still more sex ("Anything"). So you're thinking, "All this sex ... what has become of Janet?" She's turned into a woman who knows how to find sexual satisfaction. You never once get the impression that her sex life is controlling her. It is Janet who is in control.

My only complaint? I could do without the "interludes." I like to think I'm capable of drawing my own conclusions about the music I'm listening to.

According to the press release for their new album *Bold* (Against The Flow Records), "**Angie & Debbie Winans** don't expect their new album ... to be universally embraced. On it, they denounce homosexuality, fornication, abortion, spiritual apathy and loose women." Denounce homosexuality? Just who do you sisters think will do your hair and make-up for you, if you get your way? Denounce homosexuality? Look around you, at the people singing with you in your church choir. You "believe in Jesus," as you make perfectly clear in the song "I Believe." Sorry, honeys, he doesn't even know who you are. Don't forget, Jesus wasn't (and still isn't) a Christian, especially not the kind of Christian in the Christianity embraced by the Winans family.

According to "these sisters/from the Motor City" in the song "Not Natural," "I was chilling on my couch one night/Looking at my screen TV/There were people celebrating and congratulating/The new edition to the gay community*[Ellen DeGeneres]*/I was vexed in my spirit/And I began to write this song/It may be cold but let the truth be told/I'm here to let you know." Let me tell you, Angie & Debbie, nothing vexes my spirit more than bad grammar. Turn off the TV and read a book (and I don't mean the bible).

Singapore bans Janet's album

Singapore banned Janet Jackson's new album, *Velvet Rope*, last month due to lyrics about homosexuality, battery and abuse, a local newspaper reported.

The action was taken by the Controller of Undesirable Publications.

According to a review in THE LOS ANGELES TIMES: "While exploring the challenges and rewards of intimacy Jackson drops a few hints that nasty boys aren't her only interest.

"One interlude finds her flirting with a girlfriend, and on a delicate version of the Rod Stewart chestnut 'Tonight's the Night' she leaves the original lyrics intact, suggesting that the object of her affection may be female." — *Rex Wockner*

Literary Briefs ...

To Mardi Gras, Wit' Love...., is a new book by K. Rhydell Watson, a Chicago native. It is a romantic, erotic comedy about two Black gay men in a committed relationship who take a wild journey from California to New Orleans. The novel, published by Sheken Publishing, reportedly may be purchased for TV rights by a company owned by Shari Belafonte. The author willhave a book signing in Chicago during the coming holiday season.

To Mardi Gras ...

Long Way to Go: Black and White in America explores the complicated nature of race relations. It is published by Atlantic Monthly Press.

Maya Angelou has a new collection of essays entitled ***Even the Stars Look Lonesome,*** by Random House.

On the Jackson/ Winans trail ...

A BLACKlines reader reported that Chicago radio DJ Tom Joyner and crew were laughing and joking about Janet Jackson's remake of Rod Stewart's "Tonight's The Night," in which she sings the love song to a woman.

The two youngest sisters of popular Black gospel singers BeBe and CeCe Winans are not shy about promoting their album's anti-gay sentiments. The press people for Angie and Debbie Winan's CD even sent a review copy to BLACKLINES/OUTLINES. They are starting a crusade to "help emancipate people from the sinful bondage of homosexuality."

Lidell Jackson, a co-founder of New York's Lavender Light: The Black and People of All Colors Lesbian and Gay Gospel Choir, told THE WASHINGTON BLADE: "It is wrong for anyone ... to release something that virulently homophobic. It speaks volumes about the hatred and oppression we're all [fighting]."

Angie Winans said: "We know our ministry has always been directed toward the youth. But with the rapid increase of black-on-black crime, homosexuality, premarital sex, babies having babies, lack of respect for our elders ... we knew we had to come back with a much bolder message than before."

On Nov. 8 or Nov. 15 **Black Entertainment Television's Teen Summit** will air a program which features Angie and Debbie Winans performing "It's Not Natural." Contact: Rene Turner, Executive Producer, BET, 1899 9th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018, (202) 608-2731; Deborah Tang, Vice President, same address, (202)608-2312.

The album is No. 4 on BILLBOARD's Black gospel music chart.

Up On It

Music reviews by J.

Björk — *Homogenic* (Elektra)

If you're unfamiliar with Björk, this a good release to become acquainted with the enigmatic Icelander who inspired and co-wrote Madonna's under promoted "Bedtime Stories" single. While more artists experiment with drum and bass, Björk has "been there, done that" since the '80s, improving on electronica all the way. Clocking in under 45 minutes (a miracle these days) *Homogenic* features Björk's trademark piercing voice soaring over an intriguing mix of orchestra, calculated beats and fleeting melodies. Most successful are "Joga," "Bachlorette" and the solemn "Unravel" ("I'm a tree that grows hearts/one for each that you take"). While a little odd for some, *Homogenic* is incredibly easy to listen to. As she repeats on "All Neon Like" "Don't get angry with yourself/I'll heal you."

Mariah Carey — *Butterfly* (Columbia)

Sure, I know nothing I say about Mariah's newest release will change your mind about her, but considering her recent "transformation" I couldn't help myself. The bottom line: it's very good. On her fifth release Mariah peppers her usual power ballads (noticeably subdued) with quasi hip hop offerings to many a surprised spectator. But Sony didn't raise no fool. While a few singles may raise your eyebrow (like her clever Bone Thugs delivery on "Breakdown"), nothing will shock you. Significant are "The Roof," "Fourth Of July" and "Babydoll" (co-written with Missy Elliott). Strangers to Mariah's club presence are treated to "Fly Away" a remix of "Butterfly." Unfortunately, experimentation comes with its casualties, namely Mariah's "duet" with Dru Hill on the cover of Prince's "The Beautiful One's" which is, to be conservative, ghastly.

Laurnea — *Betta Listen* (YabYum Records/Epic)

You'd think that being on Babyface's wife's record label would ensure aggressive promotion. But aside from a few TV appearances, Laurnea has been ignored. From the uplifting "Happy," produced by Omar (whose "This Is Not A Love Song" is too excellent to be released domestically), to the jazzy "Gone" (also produced by Omar), Laurnea delivers more spunk than Janet Jackson ever had. If you were scared off by the Babyface-esque first single "Can't Let Go," be assured *Betta Listen* comes with more diversity. In fact, producers Raphael Saadiq, Speech and "Jon-John" (read: Prince) let their individual styles shine on each of these funky soul creations. As a bonus, pop this CD into the computer and Laurnea shares enough spirituality to make Erykah Badu jealous. Not a bad tune in the bunch.

Bridgette McWilliams — *Too Much Woman* (Virgin)

When Bridgette McWilliams' 1994 debut *Take Advantage Of Me* went unnoticed, I thought it was the last we'd hear from her. I was wrong; delightfully so. Her sophomore release finds McWilliams raw and ready for the rebirth of classic soul. Admittedly, her voice is not very strong, but instead of hiding under hip hop constructions, Bridgette croons and belts with confidence over well-crafted tunes featuring respected Bobby Watson, Billy Preston, Tawatha Agee and Portia Griffin. Highlights include "Actions (Speak Louder Than Words)," the bluesy "It's Your Life," and the saucy first single "Fire." If you can identify with her title track ("Too much woman/to be alone is not uncommon/and I'm so demanding/come be with me if you can stand it"), then this is for you. Good stuff.

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Cheryl Dunye's 'Watermelon Woman' at Lesbian & Gay Film Fest

by LaJaunessee Jordan

The Watermelon Woman, written and directed by Cheryl Dunye, is the first Black lesbian feature film and will be shown at the Chicago's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival this month.

Reeling '97, the 17th Chicago Lesbian and Gay International Film Fest runs from Nov. 7-20, with Dunye's film scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 13, 1997.

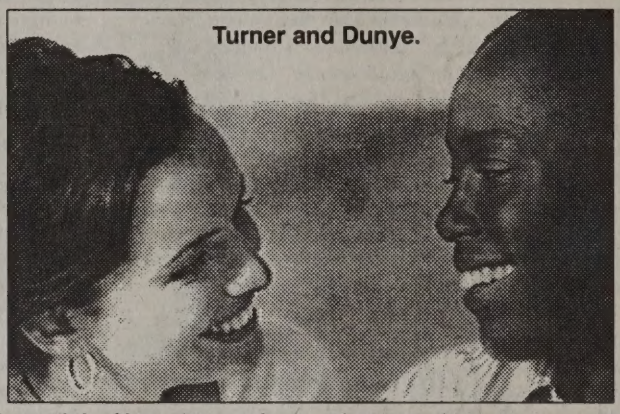
Watermelon Woman has received numerous awards including the Teddy Bear award for best gay film, Berlin Film Festival; the Audience Award, Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film Festival; the Audience Award, Creteil Women's Fest, Paris and others.

This "Dunyementary," as the author calls her work, is the tale of a twenty-something Black lesbian struggling to make a documentary about Fae Richards, a beautiful and elusive 1930's Black film actress, popularly known as, "The Watermelon Woman."

While uncovering the meaning of the Watermelon Woman's life, Dunye experiences a total upheaval in her personal life. Her love affair with Diana (Guinevere Turner, *Go Fish*), a beautiful white woman, and her interactions with the gay and Black communities are subject to the comic yet biting criticism of her best friend Tamara (Valarie Walker). Meanwhile, each answer Cheryl discovers about the Watermelon Woman evokes a flurry of new questions about herself and her future.

At the film's conclusion, the Watermelon Woman is clearly a metaphor for Cheryl's search for identity, community and love.

The character of Cheryl in the film is autobiographical but the historical references are fictional, said Dunye who also



Turner and Dunye.

directed the film. "*Watermelon Woman* came from the real lack of any information about the lesbian and film history of African American women. Since it wasn't happening, I invented it."

Watermelon Woman features cameo performances by notable figures including Camille Paglia (controversial cultural critic), Toshi Reagon (Black lesbian poet), Sarah Schulman (lesbian novelist), and Brian Freeman (actor from the performance troupe Pomo Afro Homos).

Well-known lesbian photographer Zoe Leonard collaborated by creating a fictional photographic "Archive" from the "life" of the Watermelon Woman. Leonard's photographs from the film have been selected for the prestigious Whitney Biennial Exhibition in New York.

Dunye's 1994 short *Greetings from Africa*, co-produced with *Good Machine*, was included in the 1995 Hong Kong, Berlin, and Sundance Film Festivals.

Chocolate Babies.

There are many more films of interest at the 17th Chicago Lesbian and Gay Film Fest. Call (773) 384-5533 for a complete schedule, and for more details see the Nov. 5 OUTLINES. Below are highlights. Films Nov. 13 are at the Music Box, 3733 N. Southport. Films Nov. 14-20 are at Chestnut Station, 830 N. Clark: **Friday, Nov. 7th:** Opening night screening of ***Bent***, about gays in the Holocaust. **Sunday, Nov. 9:** ***Out at Work*** 1 p.m., stories of gays and lesbians facing good and bad times coming out at work. **Monday, Nov. 10:** Dominic Hamilton-Little in ***Pousse Café***, 9:15 p.m. **Tuesday, Nov. 11:** ***The Silver Screen***, about gays in film, 7 p.m.; and ***Chocolate Babies***, 9:15 p.m. The Max No-Freak gang is a self-styled group of "Black faggots with a political agenda, dedicated to queer terrorism" to expose racist policies against HIV+ African Americans. **Wed., Nov. 12:** ***International Gay Shorts***, 9:15 p.m. **Friday, Nov. 14:** ***Latin Boys Go To Hell*** (a Latino/a, gay and straight comedy soap opera) 9:15 p.m.

Greetings from Africa will be screened as part of the Women Make Movies retrospective, 7:15 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17 at Chesnut Station.

Her video *he Potluck and the Passion* was included in the 1993 Whitney Biennial. Duyne's other works have been screened at festivals in New York, London, South Africa, and Paris. She received grants from the Astraea Foundation and Frameline; Fellowships from Art Matters, Inc, and Rutgers University; was honored with a Major Pennsylvania Artists Award and was recipient of a Media grant from the National Endowment of the Arts.

Watermelon Woman also received a small amount of federal National Endowment for the Arts funding, causing U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms to once again attack funding of gay-related works. The controversy stirred up the halls of Congress last year—giving Dunye's film national publicity.

Dunye received her BA from Temple University and her MFA from Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts, where she used the video art format to explore race, sex, and class in the lives of Black women. She uses documentary fiction and pseudo-documentary styles of filmmaking.

Reeling '97, the 17th Chicago Lesbian and Gay International Film Fest runs from Nov-20, with Dunye's film scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 13, at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport. There is a party in honor of director Dunye at Girlbar, 2625 N. Halsted, starting 11 p.m., following the screening. There will be open bar and cocktails (courtesy Absolut) and food (courtesy Da Nicola). Film and party tix $15 ($7 for film only). The event is co-sponsored by OUTLINES/BLACKLINES/NIGHTLINES. Call (773) 384-5533.

Watermelon Women will also be at the Music Box Nov. 14-21. Call (773) 871-6604.

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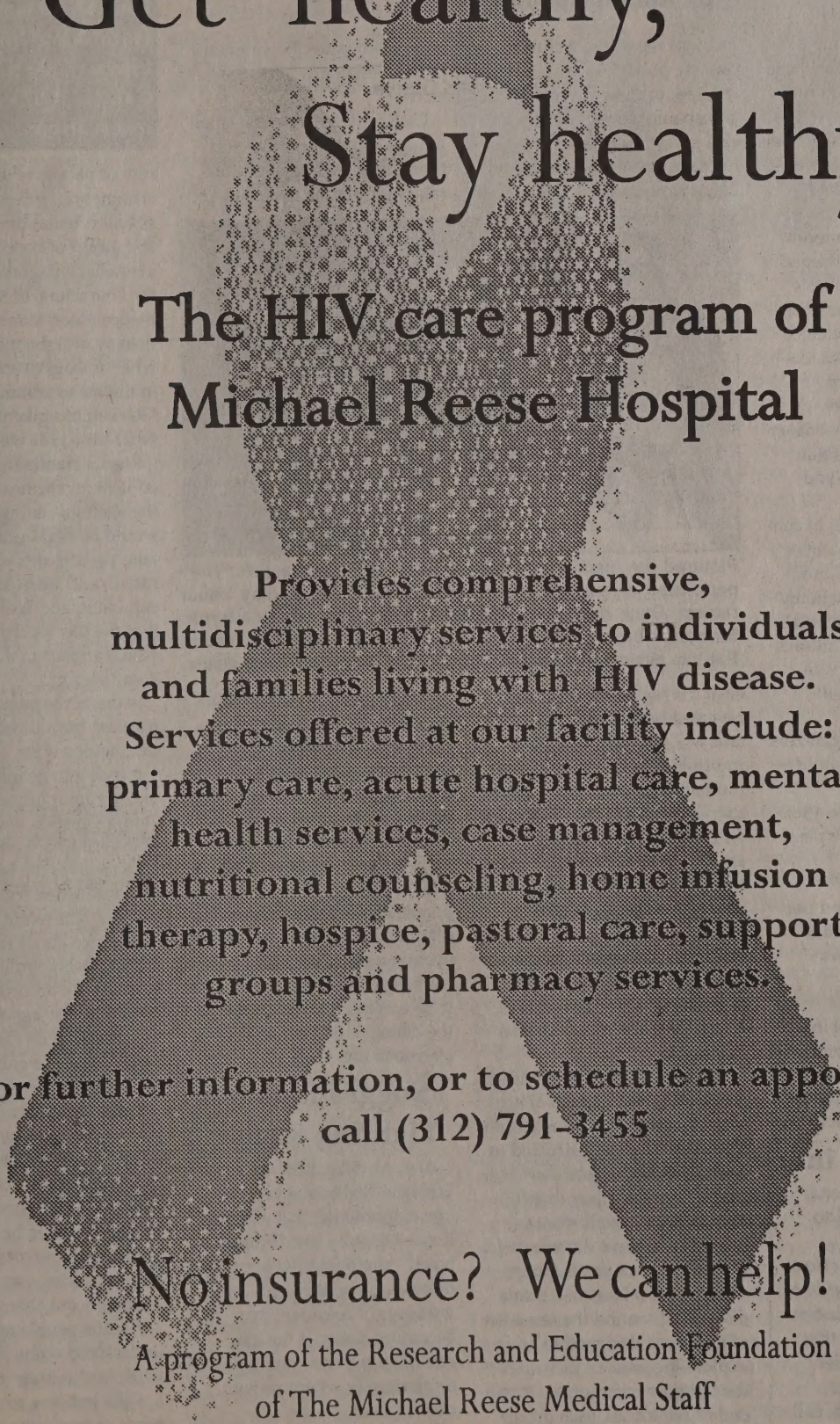

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Town Meeting: The Color Triangle

by Robert Schultz

A racially diverse group of more than 100 individuals from the lesbigay/trans community participated in the forum "The Color Triangle: A Different Look at Racism in our Community," held Sept. 27 at the Harold Washington Library.

The forum, part of a month-long series of events throughout Chicago during September's "Unity Month," was the lesbigaytrans community's chance to dialogue about racism. Co-sponsored by the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations, the Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, Lesbigay Radio, and Lambda Publications (BLACKLINES/OUTLINES) in conjunction with Amigas Latinas, Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays, Clubhouse Productions, Khuli Zaban, Sidetracks, and Womyn of All Colors/Cultures Together, the afternoon was structured to provide well-considered discussion.

The Color Triangle organizers stated that this forum would be the first of a series.

Setting the tone for the afternoon was a performance piece written by OUTLINES/BLACKLINES columnist Kathleen Rose Winter and performed by A Real Read and other actors. The piece was structured as a series of soliloquies about race.

The opening scene, set in a police station, had a young biracial Black gay man being released into his white mother's custody after an arrest over an incident regarding a club's carding policy. As the piece progressed, each of the characters, a Hispanic woman of African and indigenousness American heritage, an Asian woman, a Black woman, the white bouncer of the nightclub who later revealed herself to be Jewish and who had requested the multiple ID's, the man and his mother all shared their perspective of the difficulties of coping with racism. Each character shared the insight, which grew from a motif into the overriding message of the piece that in individuals of all races they saw "some part of myself, some part of my people." The audience responded with sustained applause when the piece was finished.

Pictured are members of A Real Read, and other actors. They performed an excerpt of a Kathleen Rose Winter play about racism. Back row, from left: Sanford Gaylord, director Byron Stewart, Dorothy Dillingham, C.C. Carter and Lori Lee. Front: Patricia Mickey, Winter and Sunyoo Kim. Photo by Tracy Baim

The crowd was then divided into eight small groups of just more than a dozen people each. Participants were instructed to find a group that was composed of people they didn't know and the facilitators sought to achieve diverse racial mixture in each small group.

Each group launched into a discussion around the same list of questions designed to explore the issue of racism in the lesbigay community. At the end of the forum, each group had a representative report to all in attendance the summary of their small group discussions.

Each reporter from the small groups had provocative and thoughtful recommendations, ranging from the personal, such as holding people accountable for their racist acts, to specific proposals for enhancing the diversity of Chicago's lesbigaytrans institutions and organizations. One group reported that its participants were unable to name a gay public space where a diverse group of lesbigaytrans people could be found on a regular basis. As people left the event, one overheard informal conversations reflecting the collective determination to not let the dialogue that began that afternoon die.

Suggestions for Fighting Racism

Alan Amberg, host of Lesbigay Radio, stated in his opening remarks that activist Renae Ogletree had "buttonholed" him about the need for a discussion about racism. Many lesbigays of color feel that becoming a part of the gay community means being part of a community where racism doesn't exist.

Many reason that a community of people who face discrimination because of their sexual orientation would be the last group of people to perpetuate racial antagonisms. One of the characters, in the performance piece, summarized the dismay of lesbigaytrans people when it's discovered that within the queer community, "Racism has taken a piss on what little glue we have."

Neena Hammady, Amberg's co-host for the forum, outlined the agenda, stating that racism would be highlighted as a problem, participants would define racism and learn some tools to combat it, and lastly, she hoped that the day's participants would choose to do something about racism.

Some of the suggestions that resulted from the small group discussions were:

▼ trying to get one's friends to confront more serious issues. One suggestion was that friends of differing races should test who receives the better response when trying to hail a cab as a real-world learning experience about racism.

▼ the lesbigaytrans community can work on institutional racism by having more diversity leadership on the boards of directors of our community institutions.

▼ the other "isms" that plague the community need to be addressed as well, including classism, sexism, look-ism and ageism (the perception that to be gay means to be forever young and forever cute) and able-isms (the perception that all people are able bodied).

▼ white people need to understand white privilege and work to eliminate it.

▼ the lesbigay community needs to know the history of other racial and ethnic groups

The next Color Triangle is Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State. Call (773) 973-3999 for reservations.

Women's HIV info

Women Alive, a national organization dedicated to women with HIV, has released ***Knowledge, Action, Health—A woman's guide to HIV treatments.*** It includes charts and worksheets that help readers better understand treatment options.

For more information, call (213) 965-1564.

as well as have knowledge of one's own race or ethnic group's history.

▼ the queer community can no longer be complacent about racism.

▼ the lesbigay community needs to develop and hear the voice of working-class queers.

▼ people should diversify the race and ethnic background of their personal friends.

▼ people should experience other cultures.

▼ people should be called on their racism and sexism when it occurs.

Discussion Raised Issues: Resolutions Yet to Come

Our small group discussion didn't last long enough. Just as my small group, composed of two men besides myself, one white, and one Black, and lesbians, seemed to hit its stride, the time allotted for our structured dialogue about racism slipped away. Our discussion highlighted many issues but, unfortunately, developing strategies for concrete actions were deferred for future discussions.

In our group discussion we didn't spend enough time distinguishing and understanding the difference between institutional racism and personal racism. I would argue that although these types of racism are interrelated, a distinct approach is needed to resolve each type of racism. There was a healthy debate about to blossom over whether everyone is oppressed by racism and is it just "too easy to equate our oppression to someone else's."

I believe there are definite distinctions between being discriminated against because of your disability, for example, not having sign language interpreters available at a public meeting if you're deaf; as opposed to being discriminated against because of your sexuality, such as not being allowed to slow dance with your same-sex partner at straight nightclubs. These discriminatory acts are different than the experience of walking down the street dressed in office drag on your way to work and being detained by a Chicago Police Officer because you are the first Black man the patrolman sees after getting a radio alert about a Black man who has committed a crime somewhere in your neighborhood. Just a few days ago I made an embarrassing sexist comment among a group of women colleagues. They "read me" mercilessly for my stupid comment. I've also made my share of inappropriate remarks about people's religious practices and beliefs.

Our group briefly wrestled with the need for women who have suffered under patriarchy to have their separate space at times, as opposed to the principle of inclusion. We just began to examine the arrogance of whites in assuming that persons of color need to join white organizations when white individuals see no need to come to communities of color for socializing or to respond to common community interests such as the AIDS crisis.

There wasn't a chance to examine internalized racism among Blacks that manifests itself in the ugly color hierarchy that has been illustrated in film and literature. Nor was there a chance to look at the tensions between Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians some may choose to exacerbate in America, especially as our country becomes a brown nation.

These conversations are just starting. I hope that the organizers of the Color Triangle hold to their promise to continue to set the stage where these conversations can happen. Then perhaps we can figure out how to make diversity the hallmark of our lesbigaytrans organizations. We certainly know that people need to step out of their comfort zones and become leaders in their own right in being more pro-active as anti-racist.

The next Color Triangle is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State. Call (773) 973-3999 for reservations.

Excerpts from the first Color Triangle dialogue will begin in the next BLACKLINES.

Robert Castillo, Steve Wakefield and Kasey Reese at the first Color Triangle, which was attended by more than 100 people.

A Red Death

reviewed by Jano

Walter Mosley's book, *A Red Death*, comes to life on the stage of the Chicago Theatre Company. This Easy Rawlins mystery is another in the series that put *Devil in a Blue Dress*, starring Denzel Washington, on the screen. CTC does it again by pairing a first-class group of actors with a top-notch script. David Barr adapted it and Delia Jolly Gray directed.

Easy Rawlins, played by Douglas Alan Mann, is a Negro living in Los Angeles, circa 1950s. He is a landlord and also a nose for hire that will get questions answered, for a price. Easy is a thinking man in a time when being a thinking Negro could easily mean death. True to the Mosley series, Easy maintains a loyal alliance with his friends Mouse, played by Daniel Bryant, Etta Mae, played by Rolanda Brigham, and Mofass, who is a friend of utility, played by Steve Broussard. Yet none of the 13 characters in this presentation are incidental.

The lighting, the scenery and the wardrobe (which is brilliantly created by costume designer Karen Wells) all conspire to take you to a Los Angeles that has rarely been documented, before Mosley, on television, screen or stage.

A Red Death runs for two hours and twenty minutes, with one intermission; that is probably the biggest challenge of the play. Any other challenges are overshadowed by the fact that this is a superb script, with an equally superior cast. Running until Nov. 9, it is highly recommended. See it now or regret it later.

The Chicago Theatre Company is located at 500 East 67th St. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday. For tickets call (773) 493-5360.

Southern Girls

Lesbian International of Memphis (LIM) proudly presents its 1st annual Thanksgiving Ball on Nov. 28, from 9 p.m. until 4 a.m. It will be held at Ebony and Ivory Entertainment Restaurant Inc., 251 Court Avenue, downtown Memphis.

This ball is the brainchild of Iola Woodson, who was inspired to create it after travelling to Chicago and seeing how great the parties were. If you are anywhere near the Mississippi River the Friday after Thanksgiving, Iola strongly suggest that you swing over to Memphis for some southern hospitality.

For more information, phone (901) 743-6563. —*Jano*

"One History Among Many"

by Charles Clifton

The defense of Black masculinity and reclamation of Black manhood is an intricate component of the African and African-American male enslaved narratives. The process of recounting the experiences of slavery in this literature is often complicated by the racialized sexual ideology of nineteenth century America. Also in the Black male narratives, freedom takes on the symbolically masculine qualities - property, power and privilege - long connected to white slave-owning men. Furthermore, the experiences reflected upon in the narratives, like any autobiography, are affected by time and space. The narratives recount the childhood memories from the perspective of an adult, and these remembrances are in some instances filtered to protect or project desired details of the slave's life.

Although slave children made up a substantial portion of the nineteenth-century slave population, insufficient attention has been given to their experiences. When the experiences of slave children are discussed in historical literature, they are often represented as existing independently from the atrocities endured by enslaved parents; one is led to believe that adults conveyed very little of their own suffering to their carefree children. For example, one historian writes that "masters and mistresses played with the children of field hands and house servants alike; brought them presents, not only at Christmas but whenever they returned from trips; and tolerated no end of mischief." Another also comments that at first, "Black children played in promiscuous equality with white children." It would appear as if enslaved children enjoyed an idyllic childhood. In reality, however, the culture of young slaves existed as a component of the larger culture of the slave quarters and/or the plantation. Children were not isolated or protected from the hardships of their parents.

This series will examine how the childhood experiences of slaves influenced sexual identities and conceptions of masculinity. The nineteenth-century slave narratives and twentieth-century interviews with African-Americans who experienced slavery as children offer exceptional composites of developmental aspects of their lives. I have chosen to focus on those events that are primary sexual or that have impact upon conceptions of identity and masculinity. These stories offer evidence of how slave children developed their individual sense of manhood and demonstrate how they viewed issues of a sexual nature.

My objective in this project is to expand the discussion on the history of African-Americans to include a more inclusive discussion of sexuality. The history of Black sexuality is often stereotyped, misinterpreted or completely ignored. Scholarly research on the institution of American slavery and its legacy on African-American sexuality and identity formation, often find itself immersed in an intellectual trap of deconstructing sexual stereotypes and myths created to justify the centuries of exploiting the Black body. In this series, I will examine the slave narrator's imaging of sexuality and use of erotic language. In some instances the language and images come particularly close to suggesting occurrences which today would be described as homosexual encounters. My goal is to explore through an alternative analysis of passages from the slave narratives, the potential for sexual exploitation of the enslaved male and the coded inclusion of these instances in the fugitive narratives. The passages that I will refer to will not be presented as reflections of "real life," as it "was", but as the author's desire to privilege his experiences while being restricted to a discourse of his historical conditions.

The First Time

by Dwayne Lopez Sanders

Everyone, in their lives, experiences events for the first time. First times are usually the most memorable, the most exciting or the most painful. But often, it is also the experience where you learn the most.

The first time I ever tasted a piece of chocolate I was four. My grandmother gave it to me. I remember how much I loved chocolate and how the taste watered in my mouth and caused me to feel so alive. Afterwards, every time I had a piece of chocolate, I though of my grandmother. After she died, my enthusiasm for that sweet flavor quickly followed.

I remember the first short story I wrote. It was in fifth grade. My teacher gave me such praise, I knew writing would remain a part of my life. I knew that I was born to put my words down on paper and share my experiences with people around me. First times are always that memorable.

This summer or early spring, I should say, I fell in love for the first time. I remember sitting across from him and thinking how easy it was for me to look in his eyes and fall head over heels for him. Against my better judgment no less, I did just that. I remember how I truly believed I was incapable of loving anyone. Mr. Smith took that inward feeling of isolation away, breaking through all my walls with a stare and a smile.

For me, falling in love for the first time was not just an experience; it was a life change. It made me realize so much about myself. I think that my entire life I truly

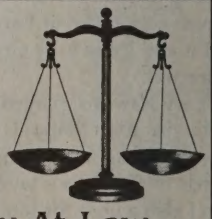
believed that deep down I was such an awful person that no one could ever really love me.

Even in the past when I was involved with people and they said they loved me, I assumed they were lying. Most importantly, I knew I didn't love them. I have spent so many years doing what I considered good to cover up for the human I thought I was. Until I fell in love, I didn't realize that I was capable of such an extreme emotion. I didn't realize I was capable of letting someone into my essence and not retreating with heavy fear.

I am no longer together with the person I loved over the summer, but now that I know that I am capable of loving, I have not closed myself off to the possibilities anymore. I truly believe that I might find that person who I can share my life with.

It's funny; Mr. Smith opened me to the possibilities of love and as soon as my eyes open, I meet someone who I look forward to sharing all kinds of firsts with. See, what I understand now is love is not about the feelings or the here and now, love is about the possibilities. I see them with C.W. Jr., so I guess I'm experiencing another first—the possibility of a future.

GREG DAVIS



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TRANSLUCENT TRANSEXUAL

by Lynnell Stephanie L.

Gender Benders
Interview with "Sheman"

"I see you as my beautiful Sheman...a combination of masculinity and femininity."
— Ronda Bedgood [from her poem "Sheman"]

His girlfriend call him Sheman, as a way of accepting his gender identity. He calls himself "Carl." When I first met Carl, I knew that there was something different about him, I was not surprised to learn that he is a borderline female-to-male transexual. His looks are those of a "Stud" (butch lesbian). What makes Carl different then most studs is he identifies as a man.

Carl was born a genetic female, his birth name is Caroline Madgett. After realizing he was different, like so many others, Carl found sanctuary in the lesbian community. There, he could dress and grow into the man he is today without anyone questioning his manly appearance. It is not unusual for a butch lesbian to carry the demeanor of a man.

After feeling comfortable with himself, Carl went a step further, having his lover and friends call him by his male name, wearing a sports bra to make his chest flat, and wearing a strap-on almost everyday to feel more like a man.

I asked Carl if he considers himself a female-to-male transexual. "I really don't know the correct definition of a FtM. I consider myself a man, but I don't know if that qualifies me as one ... I wouldn't mind taking the hormones [testosterone] ... to make me a little more masculine, but I don't want to have the surgery. I do know someone like me. I call him my brother. His name is Dee. I'm a milder version of him—he looks more like a man. He considers himself a man." Since Carl is a man who dates women, does he consider himself straight? "That's a hard question, I never really thought about that. I know I like women ... I'm a stud. I'm a true stud, some studs say they're a stud, but when it comes down to it, they're not."

As to what it was like coming out as a man in a lesbian relationship, this is what he had to say: "It was scary, I kind of played it off though. I made her think I was in the life ... in the gay life ... but I really wasn't. She didn't know she was my first lover. She'll know now, but she didn't know then. It was interesting, I was kind of nervous but I got the hang of it, seems like everything just fell into place. I always thought about it ... I knew what to do."

Being a gender bender or transexual can be difficult for anyone. I asked Carl if he wishes he was born a genetic man.

"Sometimes I do, maybe life would be a little bit easier. When people don't understand who I am, sometimes I do wish I was one [a genetic man]. It's hard to walk up to a woman and talk to her, because you don't know how she'll accept you. I tell them that my name is Carl and what I like, and what I don't like, and then it's up to them. I've dated women that said, whatever you do to me, I should be able to do to you. I tell them, 'then I'm not the man for you.' They look at me like, huh? They don't get it. I'm a man ... a true stud. Ain't nothing going up in me."

Carl, an only child, says it is difficult for his mother to accept him this way. "I wish she was more understanding. She don't approve of it, and says it's an abomination." Her mom says the church she attends, Church of the Open Door, "is the church of the devil. I go to Church of the Open Door because they accept me for who I am. I can go to church and not hear that the life I'm living is a sin and I'm going to hell. I believe God is a loving god. If it's a sin then why is he [God] still blessing me, because he is ... I'm saved, and I believe I'm saved," says Carl. His mother knows about him, but refuses to call him Carl. As to changing his name legally to Carl, he says eventually he will. I asked him about the nickname "Sheman" his lover has for him, and why Sheman? "She's learning, it's hard for her to adapt, but she's learning. She calls me Sheman because she says she don't want a man, and it's a way of her accepting me. She told me when I say man she looks at it as a biological man ... I'm not a biological man. I consider myself better than a biological man. ... Seeing that I date lesbians, my features look like a woman, they have the best of both worlds. I've been told I have the same kind of mentality as a man. I feel like I am a man, when people call me "she" I correct them. I wish that people could see me for who I am, but people only see the outside. If they get to know me better, they'll see that I am different, that I'm not a woman."

Carl is a Computer Operation Supervisor for a major banking company. Before our interview ended he received a call from his job, a computer malfunction. It was interesting to see and hear this intelligent 28-year-old Black man—a gender bender—fix the problem, and get back in the rhythm of the interview. Whether they are gender benders or transexuals isn't important. What's important is they are heard and taken seriously. From man to woman or woman to man, we are still human.

Standing Up Against Hate

by Robert Castillo

On Tuesday, Oct. 7, I got ready for my job as I usually do. All set for work, I opened the front door of the house I share with my partner John to find that our rainbow flag had been set on fire. Despite having had two flags stolen previously from our house in Logan Square, I was unprepared by this latest attack on our queerness.

I immediately phoned my job to let them know that I would be late and as I relayed the incident to my co-worker, I found myself losing control of my emotions and began to cry. She was the first person I told about what had happened and during our conversation the reality of it finally hit me—while I lay in bed upstairs someone or some persons started a fire that could have spread to the house and could possibly have injured me.

After calling work I then proceeded to call my partner John at work. I also called the Chicago Police Department, Horizons Anti-Violence Project, the State's Attorney's office, Mary Morten (Mayor Daley's liaison to the queer community), Commission on Human Relations Chairman Clarence Woods' office, our alderperson's office, and just about everyone else I could think of—I was not going to remain silent and let this go. Talking on the phone also served a therapeutic purpose—it helped me to not feel so alone and so vulnerable.

A police officer came to the house to fill out a report. The flag burning was listed as arson, which is a felony, and it was also listed as bias motivated. Investigators from both the Police Department's bomb and arson unit and the civil-rights unit also came to investigate. They asked if I had any idea who might have done this and I really couldn't give an answer because we have had no problems with our neighbors since moving here in October of 1995.

Needless to say, I didn't make it in to work that day because I feared that I or John would return from work to find the house burned to the ground. I left the house once to get some

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Have We Overcome?

by Jon Dallas

"Gentlemen ... in my bag here, I have a foolproof method for controlling your Black slaves. I guarantee everyone of you that if installed correctly, it will control the slaves for at least 300 years. My method is simple ... I have outlined a number of differences among the slaves and I take these differences and make them bigger. I use fear, distrust and envy for control purposes. These methods have worked on my modest plantation in the West Indies and it will work throughout the South. Take this simple little list of differences and think about them. On the top of my list is 'Age' but it is there only because it starts with an 'A'; the second is 'Color' or shade, there is intelligence, size, sex, size of plantations, status on plantation, attitude of owners, whether the slaves live in the valley, on a hill, East, West, North, South, have fine or coarse hair or is tall or short. Now that you have a list of differences, I shall give you an outline of action—but before that I shall assure you that distrust is stronger than trust and envy is stronger than adulation, respect or admiration ... the Black slave after receiving this indoctrination shall carry on and will become self re-fueling and self generating for hundreds of years, maybe thousands...don't forget you must pitch the old black vs. the young Black male, and the young Black male against the old Black male. You must use the dark skin slaves vs. the light skin slaves and the light skin slaves vs. the dark skin slaves. You must use the female vs. the male, and the male vs. the female. You must also have your white servants and overseers distrust all blacks, but it is necessary that your slaves trust and depend on us ... gentlemen, these kits are your keys to control; use them. Have your wives and children use them, never miss an opportunity. My plan is guaranteed and the good thing about this plan is that if used intensely for one year, the slaves themselves will remain perpetually distrustful."
— Excerpts from a speech by Willie Lynch in 1712

I recently attended an Anti-Racism Training session in nearby Oak Park. I've been attending and leading racism seminars for the past 9 years, but this one was different.

I was amazed to see and hear one Black woman [who I understood to straight] didn't fully acknowledge her heritage and pride of being a part of Black culture. Instead, she was more prideful of her 'class and position' in society. I couldn't help but wonder if we, as Black lesbian and gay people have become so diluted into thinking that our struggle for racial equality in the lesbian and gay community is outdated, obsolete or minimized [mainly because of our solidarity with the white lesbian and gay community rallying around sexual identity].

Unlike white lesbian and gays, our community has no choice but to deal with racial prejudice on a daily basis. You may be sitting on the 'L' and the white woman next to you pulls her purse closer to her body; then there's white lesbians and gays who use the terms "Afro-American or Colored" to describe Black people, or white lesbians and gays commenting that "you're not like other Black people; you are a credit to your race." Because of these hurtful comments and gestures, it becomes extremely difficult to dismiss the idea that our racial identity is secondary to our sexual identity.

Racism, or in more realistic terms white supremacy, is the belief that people belonging to or possessing the characteristics of one 'race' are superior to, or more desirable than, those of another group coupled with the power to enforce a belief system.

The very idea of having an Anti-Racism Training session in 1997 [285 years after Willie Lynch's speech] is one strong indication that Black people and other people of color are being denied equal opportunity in this country regardless of sexual identity. A select few of us may have more advantages than others because of our skin complexion, speech, age or intelligence, but the simple fact is that we are all in the same boat going the wrong way.

There may be the captain's quarters, the crew quarters or the dirty deck for the passengers, but we're still in the same boat. The best way for the boat to continue going in the wrong direction is to divide the passengers, allowing them to work in different groups, on different tasks and issues instead of working together as a team.

The Black lesbian and gay community is fragmented not as many believe because of conflict, but because we are not a monolithic people or community. Black lesbians and gays, just like our white counterparts, are different and some conflicts resulting from our differences. Combine these differences resulting from our own distinctiveness with the speech given by Willie Lynch, and it is understandable that we sometimes turn against one another. Our proud ancestors were survivors and developed counteractive behaviors to keep themselves alive. These behaviors, a result of internalized racism [white supremacy], are a testimony to their strength, determination and inventiveness, but should not be encouraged or tolerated in 1997.

Internalized racism, another term for internalized oppression, is the turning upon ourselves, our families and upon our own people the distress patterns that result from the racism and oppression of the majority society.

Here's some of the ways that internalized oppression affects and operates among us [by Suzanne Lipsky]:

Individual Relations Causes us to dramatize our feeling of rage, fear, indignation, frustration and powerlessness at each other—at other Black people—often those closest to us.

Group Effort Causes us adults to find fault, criticize and invalidate each other. This invariably happens when we come together in a group to address some important problem or undertake some liberation project. What follows is divisiveness and disunity leading to despair and abandonment of the effort.

Leadership Causes us to attack, criticize or have unrealistic expectations of any one of us who has the courage to step forward and take on leadership responsibilities. This leads to a lack of the support that is absolutely necessary for effective leadership to emerge and group strength to grow. It also leads directly to the 'burn out' phenomenon we have all witnessed in, or experienced as, effective Black leaders.

Isolation from other Blacks Has caused us to be deeply hurt by our brothers and sisters; we develop defensive patterns of fear, mistrust, withdrawal and isolation from other Blacks; on top of this we sometimes feel ashamed of our fear of our own people. The isolation, which results from internalized oppression can become so severe that a Black person may feel safer with and more trustful of white people than of Black. This is an illusion, a confusion, created by the pattern, but an individual may accept living issued this pattern because it feels 'comfortable' and therefore 'workable.' Clear thinking tells us that this is not a good enough solution. No Black person's re-emergence will be achieved unless she or he faces and dissolves the

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History Through Storytelling

by Kathleen Rose Winter

Pain. History is full of it. As a recorder of oral history, I sometimes feel like a reservoir of misery; but still, I try to bring hope or peace to my readers. I know that a Band-Aid cannot stick to an injured heart; but when anything is injured, scars appear. These scars are ugly, but they indicate healing and make that injured area stronger. Yardman (not his real name) told me the familiar story of the pain and abuse that lesbian, gay, and transgendered children endure at the hands of their "straight" peers and adults.

Yardman was born on the West Side of Chicago in February of 1962. He is a short man of average weight, with his curly black hair cut short and "slicked back." When he can smile, it is broad and sweet. He carries the sweet softness of femininity. As we talk about his life, he drinks wine, taking a gulp with every terrible memory. He is reluctant to relay the past horrors and present realities of his life. I tried to reassure him that pain was "something to have" and not "something to be"; he needed to know that he was not alone in his sadness.

His warmest memory of love and affection was being held in his grandmother's lap, while she slowly rocked him and "plucked" his eyelashes (apparently this was done to children in order to "thin" out the eye lashes). He was around four years old. He lived with his mother (his mother and father never married) and grandmother. The grandmother was a strong and loving presence in the household. Yardman remembers that the abuse and pain of his childhood coincided with her death.

He was eight years old when his grandmother died. The week she died, a family "gunfight" signaled the beginning of chaos. He lived with his mother as she "stayed with" various friends and family members. She seemed incapable of having a home for herself and her child. As a result, on Chicago's West Side, they moved frequently.

Yardman's years in Junior High School were a daily nightmare. He characterizes himself as a feminine looking boy. As a result of ignorance and intolerance toward the way he was perceived, he was brutalized by his peers, each day as he left school. This abuse was common knowledge to the school staff, so his teachers were instructed to allow him to leave school five minutes before school was over. He recalls knowing every school exit, no matter how obscure, in order to escape a beating. No matter how hard and fast Yardman tried to escape these beatings, every day he had to literally run for his life. During this period in his life, he was sexually assaulted many times by the young males in his neighborhood. Sometimes his assailants would say "if you let us f--- you, we won't call you a sissy." This unfortunate "bargain" worked with some, but usually the rape of this child came with no warning—no discussion.

Throughout his life, Yardman recalls being called a "sissy," usually in a very hostile, violent way, and by his mother. He mumbled to me that on his ninth birthday, his mother smashed his birthday cake into his face. I attempted to get more information about that birthday, but he hurt too much to talk. When he was 16, his mother's boyfriend asked Yardman for sex. He refused and the boyfriend told the mother that Yardman was trying to "get with" him. The mother confronted Yardman. He then told her that he was gay and the truth about what happened between he and her boyfriend. His mother called Yardman a "sissy' and then "kicked" him out of their home.

Yardman went to the North Side of Chicago. This was the end of the line for abused and homeless lesbian, gay, and transgendered youngsters. They went there searching for older visions of themselves; they went to find themselves and each other. For the next two years, Yardman went from "friend" to "friend," living wherever he was welcomed. He always worked a "real" job, so money was not a problem. But his youth and good looks made him a target of many men who basically acted as his "Sugar Daddies." When he became 18, he met a 33-year-old man who was to become his lifelong lover. Seventeen years later they still live together in a "sexless" relationship. His friend has AIDS.

For his 35th birthday, there was no birthday cake in the face, but instead Yardman's mother told him he was an unwanted child that came from the violence of rape. He told me this as if the cruelty of the remark was a surprise. Years of abuse did not prepare him for the next of life's horrors. I saw him as forever rocking in his grandmother's lap, with the warmth, comfort, and safety of her touch—that is where he needs to remain.

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soda from the corner store. I found myself starting to shake and looking at everyone on the street wondering if they were responsible for attacking what is supposed to be our one truly safe space place—our home.

The incident is being investigated as a hate crime and we've also reported it to Horizons. My partner and I have decided to let our burned flag continue to fly as a reminder that hate exists in Logan Square, because we will not be chased back into the closet by fear. We will also not take down the flag that serves as a signal to youth and others in our neighborhood that our home is a safe space for them to come to if they need someone to talk to or to find out about resources.

They can burn our flag, but still we rise.

Castillo is a writer for EN LA VIDA, a member of Queer Nation and serves on the City of Chicago's Advisory Council on Gay & Lesbian Issues.

News in brief ...

Chicago Black Lesbian Gays is seeking proposals for their 5th annual Unity Conference ,*Renaissance and Renewal: Celebrating Ourselves*, to be held April 3rd and 4th, 1998. Call (312) 409-4917.

The Chicago Human Relations Awards nomination deadline is Nov. 4, 1997. "The awards honor individuals and organizations that have worked toward making Chicago bias free by helping improve intergroup understanding and cooperating," said Clarence Wood, Commissioner of Human Relations, Chairman. Call (312) 744-4101.

Ford Heights, which is predominantly Black and one of the poorest cities in the U.S., began cleaning up two illegal dumps and a program to prevent further dumping. A The project was funded by the EPA.

How I See It
Cruising for Life

by C.C. Carter

My partner turned and looked at me as we found our assigned table according to the number on the tickets and she said, "Boy, if anything was to happen to this boat, all of gay Chicago would be in trouble." I didn't think anything about it until the boat began to sail. I was cruising for life.

On Sunday, Sept. 21, 1997 at high noon, 600 people plus met at the dock on Navy Pier to board and sail on the *Odyssey*. The cause, to cruise for life and to raise money for the Lesbian Community Cancer Project. The cruise is an annual affair which showcases a lavish buffet and jazz musicians. The highlight is and was the live auction. Expected to raise $5,000, the auction alone topped $20,000.

Cases of champagne and caviar, baton twirling lessons, private home massages, airline tickets for international travel, and dinner out for two for 12 months were just a few of the items that created fierce bidding.

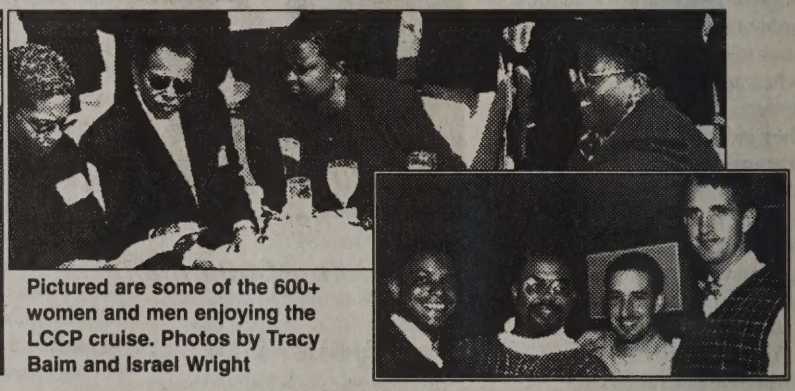
Overall, even though people mixed and mingled, found new partners, or reunited with old (I won't tell secrets), the underlying purpose was clear. We were raising money to help decrease the rising numbers of women (lesbian and non-lesbian women) who find themselves battling or being supportive of someone who is fighting the various types of cancer which could be deadly.

Jackie Anderson (board president of LCCP), event co-chairs Sharon Mylrea and Suzanne Kraus, along with committee members from our community, and a host of volunteers, deserve applause and recognition for their effort in uniting and motivating the lesbigaytrans community in the fight against cancer.

This brings me back to the comment my partner said when we arrived on the boat. It was so true. Every gay and lesbian political, social, blue collar, white collar advocate who is the 'Who's Who' in their field and area, Black, White, Hispanic, etc. ... was on that cruise. If anyone ever wanted to wipe out gay Chicago, that was the day. There would have been very few political representatives to voice our concerns, few bars or social parties, few to organize Pride events, and few to volunteer at AIDS Ride and LCCP events. Come to think of it, Chicago would be wiped out, too. No CTA drivers, no postal carriers or handlers, no emergency mechanics, no one to serve you food in the restaurants, nor any carpenters or roofers for new townships. The patrons who paid $80 a person to enjoy the LCCP Cruise were as diverse in socio-economic, business and career backgrounds, as they were in ethnicity. That goes to prove my point again: We can unite for a cause.

My problem is, why does the cause have to be so life-threatening for us to '... just get along'?

I could be wrong, but that's how I see it.



Pictured are some of the 600+ women and men enjoying the LCCP cruise. Photos by Tracy Baim and Israel Wright

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isolation from her or his own people.

Internalized Stereotypes Have caused us to accept many of the stereotypes of Blacks created by the oppressive majority society. We have been taught to be angry at, ashamed of, anything that differs too much from a mythical ideal of the middle-class of the majority culture[i.e. skin that is 'too dark,' hair that is 'too kinky,' dress, talk and music that is 'too loud'].

Narrowing of Our Black Culture Leads us to accept a narrow and limiting view of what is 'authentic' Black culture and behavior. Blacks have been ridiculed, humiliated, attacked and isolated because we have excelled in school; because we did or did not talk in a particular way; because we like classical or folk music; because we did not dance; because we did not play basketball; and in many other ways have been told that we were not legitimately Black or 'Black enough,' or are 'trying to be white,' etc.

Mistrusting Our Thinking Institutionalized racism and the internalized racism which result from it have given rise to patterns which cause us to mistrust our own thinking. We carry around doubts about our own and other Black people's ability to think well. Even when we do have confidence in our own thinking we are often prevented from putting this thinking into action by the racist and oppressive structures and practices of the society.

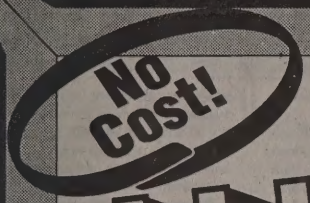
And the list goes on. We as Black lesbians and gays have been effected by these on both the receiving or giving end.

Our sexual identity is secondary to our racial identity whether or not we admit it. Our society is structured in such a manner where white skin privilege is rewarded and darker skin is discouraged unless it's through exploitation [i.e. 'exotic' Black men and women in sexually explicit advertisements; criminal activity of Black men; Black men in subordinate S&M activities].

By no means am I suggesting that Black lesbians and gays cannot work with our white counterparts. This is already occurring in a positive light in many relationships and organizations [my personal relationship included].

What I am suggesting is that we as Black lesbians and gays must continue to acknowledge that our race is the first thing that people notice. Because of this, we try to fit into the general society and we don't want to be different. I don't believe in colorblindness—it's ridiculous—just as the concept of race equating to privilege.

I challenge you not only to answer the question "Have we overcome?" but to answer the question, "How are you going to contribute to our struggle for racial equality in the lesbian and gay community?"



HIV Counseling Testing and Referral

Chicago Department of Public Health

Anonymous Testing and Confidential Referrals. Call Today for an Appointment.

Do you know your HIV status? Free HIV counseling, testing and referrals are available at these clinics:

Uptown
845 W. Wilson
744-7533

Lakeview
2861 N. Clark
744-8829

West Town
2418 W. Division
744-5464

Near Southside
1306 S. Michigan
747-0103

Mid South
641 W. 63rd
747-0282

Roseland
200 E. 115th
747-2817

For more information contact
the Chicago Department of Health
312-747-AIDS (TDD 744-2960)
Also available are health educators and
HIV/AIDS educational materials.
City of Chicago, Richard M. Daley, Mayor

PERSONALS

MEN

ISO = In Search Of

WE NO LONGER ACCEPT & PRINT ADS WITH HOME PHONE NUMBERS OR ADDRESSES.

Chicago Police vice officers sometimes respond to suspect ads in an effort to uncover illegal activity. Please note: sex-for-money agreements (even if no sex occurs) are illegal.

GWM, top, 40s, 6', 170# with thick russet bush looking for GBM, GHM, GWM bottom for friendship. Send recent snapshot. **NLBox255** *(1)*

One hundred percent bottom, having a party 1-12-97, downtown hotel. Me A/F, you A/G. Clean, HIV- UB2. Call for details. **NLBox/Voice 52303** *(12)*

Attractive BM top straight acting 5'9" 150# 30yrs discreet hard body. ISO slim/boyish guys under 37 yrs (any race) Lee page **(312) 216-9101** *(11)*

Big attractive 300# BM Teddy ISO big affectionate masculine sumo type for a serious relationship. (Big hands/Bubble booty+.)**VOICE52301***(11)*

Experience heaven on earth, be touched from head to toe. Why wait for the elusive heaven? GWM, swimmer's build, looking for friend to exchange body massage. Finally be in touch with yourself. Write **PO Box 14121 Chicago, IL 60614-0121** *(11)*

GWM 40s 225# seeks Latino for friendship, dating, any age, likes movies, dining, talks. **NLBox249** *(12)*

BGM 6'3", 205 masculine oral bottom seeks masculine non-fat BGM for steamy action **PO Box 87325, Chicago, IL 60680** *(11)*

Personals

How to place an ad:

- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months. ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates ($10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months $27).
- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs $1.49 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.
- You can rent BLACKLINES mailbox/$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, or beeper #, we request **$5 per 2 months.** We DO NOT accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next BLACKlines. You can also run in Nightlines and Outlines.

How to respond to an ad:

- If an ad ends with an NL/V #, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parentheses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).
- If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can *only* reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can *only* reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NL/V # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o **BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657.** Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message ($1.49/min.), use *touchtone* phone to call **1-900-454-0101.** Punch 1 & 5-digit NL/V # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages.

(773) 871-7610 ***(Tuesays 9-5 only)***

Ad should read _____

Please also run ad in (no extra money): ☐ Outlines ☐ Nightlines ☐ En La Vida

FREE voice-mail number (phone responses only)! ☐ *I Do NOT want voice box #*

*PERSONALS for ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. **Classified** rates* ($10 for 1 month, 3 months $27).

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION— MUST BE FILLED OUT:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Cost of the ad:

1st 20 words, 2 months	FREE
Additional words 25¢ ea.	$_____
MailBox # ($6 per month)	$_____
Total Amount Enclosed:	**$_____**

Send to: BLACKlines/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

Love and romance, endless passionate nights, unforgettable moments together and more. Nice looking Mexican 25, 6, 150, serious, mature, responsible acting straight, looking for tall slim black guy 20-30 to share dreams, love and fun, no games please, photo-phone to get mine. Can we have a chance? You will not be disappointed. **NLBox245** *(11)*

Starved for Affection? BiWM, 39, 6'1", 180, handsome, athletic, touch oriented Lincoln Park yuppie; loves erotic massage, exotic women, occasional man-to-man encounters, seeks slender, well-endowed oral enthusiast for erotic massage exchange. Photo appreciated. **NLBox241** *(11)*

WOMEN

ISO = In Search Of

The love you deserve, someone special seeks good woman. GBF seeks easygoing lesbian 30 or over, 5'-5'5", 130-190#, who is honest caring affectionate, sensuous, passionate, friend and lover. Come snuggle up with me, watch some movies. Clean, disease and drug free. Seeking only good, healthy, caring sincere, non-violent, non-possessive, mentally stable relationship, no mind games, just gratification. Honesty, communication, respect, the 3 things which make it last a lifetime. **Beep (773) 579-7965** *(12)*

Very attractive, discriminating, together, way fit, professional SWF, 29, ISO same and beyond. Are me with your intelligence, independence, beauty, humor and grace... win me over with your honesty, passion, sincerity and smile. So hey, does sharing a bottle of sangiovese, playing backgammon and talking in front of my fireplace while lying on a Mexican blanket sound like a pretty cool date? Then write immediately (or sooner). Age/race never issues but photo is a must.**NLBox990** *(1)*

ISO femme with many interests, who wants romance and fun times. I'm a butch who's romantic, fun, honest, overweight and has many interests. Please no bi's, drugs or heavy drinkers. Leave message. **VM (773) 635-6124** *(12)*

Attractive black gay female seeks other gay black female for friendship, perhaps more. Enjoy movies, dining out, etc. **NLBox 984** *(11)*

Rescue Me!! Tired of the bar scene? GWF 40 (soft butch) looking for femme GHF, GBF financially + emotionally stable. Height + weight proportionate. Looking for someone to share my life with, are you out there? I like movies, dancing, dinner, shipping, new adventures. I'm a one-woman girl. No bi's. **NLBox 978** *(11)*

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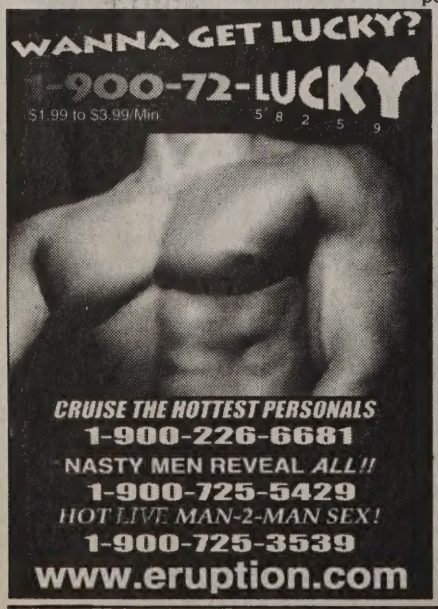

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HELP WANTED

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. STRONG EXPERIENCE IN NONPROFIT ADMINISTRATION, FUNDRAISING, PUBLIC RELATIONS. Public Foundation funding grassroots organizations in Chicago metropolitan area. Deadline Dec. 1. Women, people of color, queers encouraged to apply. Contact **Crossroads Fund (773) 227-7676.** *(11/97)*

NORTHSIDE CATERING CO. now hiring Full and Part-Time, marketing, office, kitchen and waitstaff. Pay is commensurate with experience. We will train right person(s). Fax resume or letter of interest to C.D.G., **773-395-8753** or mail to 2923 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60618. Call for appointment **(773) 395-4336.**

HOWARD BROWN Health Center, the largest gay, lesbian and bisexual health center in the Midwest, is seeking candidates for the following positions:

CASE MANAGER: Provide general case management services to clients including assessment of need, service planning, linkages and referrals, information and financial resources and mental health assessment. Minimum of bachelors degree in Social Work or related field. Experience working in a community based medical/social services setting and HIV/AIDS preferred. Spanish/English highly regarded.

CHECK OUT CASHIER. Input client payments, procedure code charges, diagnosis and statistical info. into patient information system, reconcile receipts and charges, cross train on front desk and reimbursement specialist responsibilities. High School diploma or equivalent and three + years experience in an accounting/cashiering atmosphere. Healthcare environment, medical terminology and computer experience highly recommended.

DATA MANAGEMENT CLERK. Locate, log, retrieve and file medical records, provide data entry support, prepare reports, pull medical records, perform general clerical work. High school diploma, experience in medical records and/or medical data entry, computer literacy required. Accredited records Technician degree in Medical Records and Spanish/English skills preferred.

Howard Brown Health Center is an equal opportunity employer offering competitive salary and excellent benefits. Send resume to **Attn: Human Resources, Howard Brown Health** Center, 945 W. George St., Chicago, IL 60657. Fax responses to (773) 871-5843. No phone calls please.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESEARCH ASSISTANT. The Research Division of Howard Brown Health Center seeks a motivated individual to assist with operations of a federally funded research project. This full-time position will have primary responsibility for Internet Web Site Administration. Additional research support tasks include grant writing support, literature searches and preparing written summaries. Experience with Front Page, NT Workstation and Excel essential. Knowledge of the medical and psychosocial aspects of AIDS essential. Prior experience administering a web site is a plus. Howard Brown Health Center is an equal opportunity employer offering competitive salary and excellent benefits. Send resume to **Courtney Reid, Human Resources, Howard Brown Health** Center, 945 W. George St., Chicago, IL 60657. Fax responses to (773) 871-5843. No phone calls please.

STOCK PERSON. The Brown Elephant Resale Shop of Howard Brown Health Center is seeking a stock person. Duties include stocking sales floor, maintaining store facilities, sorting merchandise, scheduling pickups of donated items, and ringing up sales on register. Must have high school diploma, two years sales experience and good interpersonal and communication skills. Current Illinois drivers license and safe driving record required. Howard Brown Health Center is an equal opportunity employer offering a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Send resume to Human Resources, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60613, or FAX (773) 388-8887. No phone calls.

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ARTISTS WANTED

WANTED: Women-identified T-Shirt design for WIMINFEST '98. Please submit your ideas to WIMIN, P.O. Box 80204, Albuquerque, NM 87198-0204. Include name, phone number. For more info, call 505-899-3627 or 1-800-499-5688 and ask the T-Shirt Tyrant to call you back. If we use your design, we will compensate you!

Craftswomen Wanted WIMINFEST '98 Call for Craftswomen!!! Join us in a brand new spacious location with lots of room for you and your wares in our annual arts and crafts fair during our Memorial Weekend Festival, May 22-24 1998. WIMINFEST is a celebration of lesbian culture, lives, strengths, talents and diiversities. Women-made items only; no mass-produced items; show is juried. Deadline for application is Feb. 6, 1998. For info call 1-800-499-5688 or write WIMINFEST Arts & Crafts Fair, P.O. Box 80204, Albuquerque, NM 87198-0204.

PERFORMERS WANTED

WIMINFEST: The Southwest's premier women's music festival seeks musicians, comics and other performers for WIMINFEST '98, May 22-24, Albuquerque, NM. WIMINFEST is committed to providing a venue for performers of all ethnic, cultural and artistic backgrounds. Send press kit and audio or video recording by Nov. 1 to WIMINFEST, P.O. Box 80204, Albuquerque, NM 87198-0204. Include name, phone number.

SEARCH for MUSLIMS

IF YOU ARE GAY and were raised in, are practicing, or have ever practiced Islam, an Art Institute graduate student would like to interview you for a student documentary. The interviewed will be respectfully implored to tell their personal stories regarding a subject not entirely realized by either the Islamic or Queer communities. **If interested, call Abu at (773) 645-3608.** *(12/97)*

VOLUNTEERS

HIV AFFECTS EVERYONE; Volunteering helps us all. Volunteers needed in all areas of Test Positive Aware Network, a not-for-profit agency serving the needs of HIV impacted individuals. Brian, Volunteer Services, **773-404-8726.** *(10/97)*

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GAY PERSONALS! Call the Confidential Connection! Record/Listen/Respond FREE! 18+ use code 7802. **(773) 878-7077.** *(10/98)*

J/O BUDDIES! Meet on Club VoiceMale! Browse, Match, Chat! Try it FREE! 18+ use code 7803. **(773) 769-4441.** *(10/98)*

News break ...

Banana sodomy trial begins

The sexual-assault trial of former Zimbabwean President Canaan Banana began last month in Harare's High Court but was promptly suspended to await a ruling on whether Banana can receive a fair trial.

He is charged with 11 counts of sodomy, attempted sodomy and indecent assault on seven aides, a cook, a gardener and a bodyguard.

Banana, 62, claims innocence. "The so-called allegations are a mortuary of pathological lies, a malicious vendetta of vilification and character assassination," he said.

Current President Robert Mugabe is viciously homophobic. Homosexuals are "repugnant to my human conscience ... immoral and repulsive," he has said. Gay sex is "an abomination" and "sub- animal behavior" and citizens should "hand [gays] over to the police. ... I don't believe they have any rights at all," he stated in 1995.

—*Rex Wockner*

World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

Heard But Not Seen, Part I

In a NEW YORKER cartoon, a canine sits at a computer, turns to a companion, and says, "On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog." However, no one knows if you're Black, gay, in a wheelchair, or from Jamaica. (The Net has a way of negating gaydar, you know.) When race isn't the first thing someone sees, it can be liberating. By being online, a variety of facets don't matter. You can interact with millions of other people in chat rooms or visit special-interest groups to talk with people who share your taste in music or art, for example. The Net can be a medium where, to echo the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., you can be judged by the content of your character and not by the color of your skin.

The truth, however, is a bit more complex. The Net is altering the nature of identity—but not by making everyone anonymous, experts state. Instead, it takes your city, your community, and—to a certain extent—your class out of the equation. It erases the boundaries of country, ghetto, and suburb—and coalesces every subgroup into one large homogeneous demographic. However, this begs the question: If you were asked to describe yourself, how would you respond?

▼▼▼▼▼

Andrew's Picks:

1. Friends of **Janet Jackson/Escapades** (http://fanasylum.com/janet/escapades.html) is the most newsworthy of the ten billion Janet-related sites. The news is constantly updated and has loads of data, including info on Ms. Jackson's latest release, *The Velvet Rope.*

2. In case you don't know already, **SBC** (http://www.sbc-online.com/) is a webzine that caters specifically to the Black lesbigay community. It has personals, a gallery, articles by writers including our own Jean Pierre Campbell—and a fine cover model.

E-mail me at gemini1@nwu.edu.

▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼

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F.Y.I. Resources for Black Lesbigays

Predominantly Black Gay Clubs

CLUB ESCAPE, M,W,D,1530 E. 75th St. 773-667-6454
CLUB INTIMUS (only Sat. 9p-3a)
312 W. Randolph, W,D,V.....312-901-1703
GENERATOR 306 N.Halsted, D, MW 312-243-8889
GIRLS NIGHT OUT, Fridays, 1200 E. 71st St., Leo's 773-667-3130
JEFFERY PUB 7041 S. Jeffrey, MW, D, 4 773-363-8555
CLUBHOUSE AT CONVENT MW,D,
1529 Armitage, ***MONDAYS*** **11p-4a** 773-395-8660

OTHER Clubs OF INTEREST

BERLIN 954 Belmont, MW, V, 4, S 773-348-4975
BIG CHICKS 5024 N. Sheridan,S/G,WM,11a-2a/3a Sa 773-728-5511
BUDDIES' REST./BAR 3301 Clark, MW, R.....773-477-4066
CHICAGO EAGLE, M,L, 5015 N. Clark 773-728-0050
CIRCUIT 3641 N. Halsted, Salsa, etc. 773-325-2233
CLUBHOUSE PLAYERS 13126 S. Western,
Blue Island, M,D,E,R,GS.....708-389-6688
FUSION 3631 N. Halsted, MW, V, D, E, 4 773-975-6622
GIRLBAR, 2625 N. Halsted, W,D 773-871-4210
GLEE CLUB 1543 N. Kingsbury , MW,Sundays ...312-243-2075
GRANVILLE ANVIL 1137 Granville, MW, L 773-973-0006
LITTLE JIM'S 3501 N. Halsted, M, 4 773-871-6116
MAN'S COUNTRY 5017 N. Clark, M, B 773-878-2069
MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE 773-477-8362
PARIS DANCE 1122 Montrose, W, D, Cafe 773-769-0602
RAINBOW ROOM 4530 N. Lincoln, WM,D 773-271-4378
RAM BOOKSTORE 3511 N. Halsted, M 773-525-9528
RED DOG CLUB Monday gay nite, 1958 W. North773-278-1009
ROSCOE'S 3354-6 N. Halsted, MW, D, V, E, Cafe773-281-3355
SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted, M, V.....773-477-9189
SPIN, Halsted & Belmont, MW, D.....773-327-7711
TEMPTATIONS 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, W, D,V, E, 4,
(5a Fri/Sat).....847-455-0008

Chicago Area Resources

AA/Newtown Alano Club 773-271-6822
Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays 773-493-3848
Adodi African-American men 312-458-9584
Affinity, creating a South Side community center
P.O. Box 496002, Chicago, IL 60649.....312-409-7609
Affinity & Bro. II Bro. Youth 773-288-6900, 312-409-7609, x3
African American Womyn's Alliance
P.O. Box 198573, Chgo 60619-8573 773-731-0279
A Real Read—African-American LesbigayTrans
Performance Ensemble 312-409-2457
BLACKLINES, Lambda Pub./OUTLINES
1115 W. Belmont,#2-D, 60657 (FAX773-871-7609) 773-871-7610
outlines@suba.com http://www.suba.com/~outlines/
Brother II Brother, Community Outreach 773-288-6900
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays,
P.O. Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181 312-409-4917
Chgo Gay & Lesbian Marching Band.....(773) 743-5738
Church of the Open Door FAX (773) 778-0178 ..773-778-3030
Black lesbigay/trans/heterosexual Church, 5954 S. Albany
The Committee, 2300 N. Clybourn, #32, 60614 773-235-0295
Greater Chicago Committee, P.O. Box 146642, 60614-6642
Healthline 312-661-9153, prevent.773-674-0429 312-670-9660
Horizons Community Services 773-929-HELP
Howard Brown Health Center 773-871-5777
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund 312-663-4413
Last House on the Block G&L in recovery 773-373-0024
Lesbian Community Cancer Project 773-561-4662
Les Femmes Amies.....312-232-0787
Men of All Colors Together/Chicago,PO Box
408922, 60640-8922 312-409-6916
Minority Outreach Intervention Proj, FAX 312-986-0928
1255 S. Wabash, Suite 2-S, 60605 312-986-0661
Onyx/Chicago leather/men, 1340 Irving, #188, 60613
Parents, Friends & Family of L&Gs/South Side773-488-7711
Phrasority *parties for all lesbians and gays*.....312-409-6637
Roseland Community Hospital.....773-995-6469
Stop AIDS/African American Program
1718 E. 75th St., 60649 773-752-7867
Test Positive Aware/Brothers United in Support
HIV/AIDS.....773-404-8726
TransGenesis trans support.....312-839-5541
United Faith Affinitas, Black L/G/Bi, 1448 E. 53rd .773-878-7839
Yahimba, 1012-1/2 Dodge, Evanston, IL 60202.....847-328-7715
Women of All Colors Together 773-267-0976, (708) 869-9120
Womyn Space: Lez Be In, a sister circle 773-874-2222
Writers Collective —gay, trans, lesbians of color 312-409-2457

CHICAGO BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CBLG seeks qualified presenters/facilitators for its 5th Anniversary Celebration
UNITY CONFERENCE IV — Renaissance and Renewal: Celebrating Ourselves
April 3rd and 4th, 1998 at the Holiday Inn City Centre Plaza, 300 E. Ohio Street, Chicago, Illinois

In keeping with this year's theme, possible workshop topics may include Advocacy/Activism, Diversity e.g., (Ableism, Sexism, Racism, etc.), Bi/TransPhobia, Employment, Parenting/Family, Mental/Physical Health, Writing Clinics, Interracial Relations, Domestic Partnership, Substance/Physical Abuse, Care Givers, HIV/AIDS, Coming Out. CBLG also seeks facilitators for the Men's and Women's Sexuality Conference Institutes. Workshops are ninety minutes in length; institutes are two and a half hours in length and run concurrently.

If you are interested in presenting a workshop or facilitating an institute please complete the information below and return to CBLG, P. O. Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181, or fax to C.C. Carter (773) 375-7446, or E-Mail CCarter033@aol.com.

All proposals must be received by December 1, 1997. They will be assessed, and selected applicants will be contacted by December 17th.

Please print or type

Name/s:_____

Organizational affiliation (s) if any _____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Telephone numbers: Day_____ Evening_____

Fax/email_____

Title of workshop/institute component:

Description: (please be concise-wording may be used for conference brochure)

Please specify A/V equipment needed:

Will you need any accessible considerations/accommodations for persons with disabilities? Please specify:

Room set-up:
Theater style_____ U shaped_____ Small breakout groups_____

Please attach 50 word biography and an in-depth program description (not exceeding 2 pages) to form

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Cards Food and Fun "Did I Say Cards"?
Tuesday
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Wednesday Exotic Dancers
Show Time Midnight
Thursday 8 pm to 2 am
Flavor (Old School)
Friday/Saturday 10 pm to 2 am / 10 pm to 3am

Saturday November 22, 1997
8 pm to 2 am

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For information contact **Club Escape** at 1 (773) 667-6454 or **MOIP** at (312) 986-0661

BLACK LINES

DEC. 1997, Vol. 2, No. 11 Free/$2 outside Chicago EXPRESSIONS FROM BLACK GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED LIFE

Chicago's A Real Read performers are educating and entertaining all over town. Don't miss their new show Dec. 12-14.

Pictured standing, from left: Ronda Bedgood, C.C. Carter, Lynnell S. Long. Front: Shannon Sudduth, Walter Parnell, Sanford Gaylord and Byron Stewart. See page 16 for calendar info.

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The Chicago Commission on Human Relations'
Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues
Lesbigay Radio and
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present

Color Triangle II

A different look at

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Multipurpose Room B

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BLACK LINES

December, 1997

Volume 2, Number 11

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Editorial

by LaJaunessee Jordan

I was cruising home from Milwaukee on one of those hot October days and Luther was singing a new love song. He's the only man I've gone to see in concert, three times in three days because his songs used to do it for me and whoever she happened to be, about 20 years ago—the lover de jour. (Well, not quite, but it sort of seems that way now.)

The radio DJ threw what should have been considered an illegal one-two punch (of Luther and Toni Braxton) to those of us who are matrimonially challenged. Prior to that moment, I had thoughts of many topics that I would write about—one thing or another that pissed me off after another "I tried talking about it. I got the big run-around. I tried to roll with the punches. I got knocked on the ground by all this bullshit going down" kind of day. You know, to let people know same shit different day and to help people who don't understand, understand why some people are often in a "Don't-push-me-cause-I'm-close-to-the-edge-I'm-trying-not-to-lose-my-head-It's-like-a-jungle-sometimes-It-makes-me-wonder-how-I-keep-from-going-under-It's-like-a-jungle-sometimes-it-makes-me-wonder-how-I-keep-from-going-under" mode.

▼▼▼▼

But the DJ brought me here. Although relationship bliss ended quite some time ago, I have yet to fully move forward. There used to be a time when, as one friend described, "You don't let grass grow under your feet!" But now, I'm in a place where many in our community are or have been—non-lover lovers with my ex-lover. Oxymoronic, you might think. But take a look around. How many ex-lovers (not yours—or maybe so) do you know whose lives are so intertwined or they still have such a connection that they still care so much about each other and are, indeed, non-lovers lovers? Or it may even be the case that the person and the ex dibble and dabble until somebody's therapist or best friend/therapist (which is worse because they can say things a real therapist can't: "Now Girlfriend! You know...) does you the favor of helping you see that although it might feel good to you, it ain't good for you.

▼▼▼▼

I've always felt that I could never not love someone that I have ever loved. Because we are unable to make our relationship work doesn't change my feelings, because a great womon is a great womon. I am still very good friends with most ex-lovers, and minimally on good terms—you know, that thing lesbians do. The only problem is that I can't (or at least won't) talk about intimate aspects of current or hopeful future relationships with other womyn, with an ex-lover. If my wording is kind of awkward to you, that's because it's a bit awkward for me. Here I am talking about my love life in front of some 18,000 print readers and Goddess only knows how many in internet land. Writing of all types has come very easily to me since I was in third grade, yet, this piece has been picked up and put down many times. In fact, it was to be last month's piece.

▼▼▼▼

Fortunately—or unfortunately—when my birthday rolls around I start to analyze things. *(By the way, mucho thanks to all who attended my birthday party/fund raiser for Ardis McBell.)*

So, a lot to think about: the womon who said, "You have carte blanche to help me relax and have fun in any way you see fit"; the womon who said, "Wherever you are is where I want to be!"; the ex-lover's feelings; meeting my needs; a hot dance with a hot womon that left me drooling; weekend lesbians; does she have up-to-date "papers?" (STD test results); does she care about the me that is me or the me in the community or the me, the performer?

This stuff ain't easy. I've been talking with many in the community going through relationship or non-relationship woes. My advice: Go with someone who makes you laugh. Of course, this has nothing to do with me being a stand-up comic.

▼▼▼▼

The Holiday season is a time of great depression for some. It is also the time that the greatest number of suicides occur. Please help someone who is lonely to not feel alone.

Unity Conference Benefit Goes Home for The Holidays with A Real Read.

Members and friends of Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays will celebrate the end of a successful and productive year with a special holiday event. "Home For The Holidays" is the theme of a festive night of toasts and performance set for 5 p.m. on Sun., Dec. 14, 1997 at Randolph Street Gallery, 756 N. Milwaukee Ave.

A Real Read, Chicago's premier African American Lesbigaytrans performance ensemble, will be a part of the conference. The troupe will present new works in a collection entitled "Love (can sometimes be) A Real Read." The benefit will help underwrite the costs of CBLG's 1998 Chicago Unity Conference IV.

Seating is limited and there are three ways to get one the $25 benefit tickets before the Dec. 8th deadline:

1) Purchase tix from CBLG steering committee members;

2) Send a check/money order with your name and address to CBLG, P.O. Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181;

3) Call CBLG: (312) 409-4917.

Presenting the 7TH annual

benefit for the

Lesbian Community Cancer Project

Coming Out Against Cancer

Saturday, January 17, 1998

South Shore Cultural Center

7059 South Shore Drive 8:00 pm - Midnight

Advance Tickets:

$100 Benefactor Ticket

Includes a 6:30 Champagne Reception in addition to the Buffet/Dance/Silent Auction

$45 Friend Ticket Includes Buffet/Dance/Silent Auction

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For more information, call LCCP 773.561.4662

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PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1997
8:00PM - 2:00AM

FOOD, FUN, MUSIC, & GIFTS

COVER $5.00

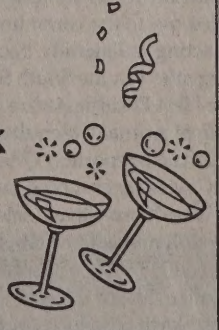
NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1997
10:00PM - 2:00AM

FOOD, FUN, & COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE

COVER $10.00

MUSIC BY HOUSE LEGEND: DJ TYRONE MIXX



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
BID WHIST 6:00-2:00	BID WHIST 6:00-2:00	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 10:00-2:00 COVER $5.00	SOCIAL NIGHT 10:00-2:00 COVER $3.00	STEPPERS NIGHT 8:00-2:00 COVER $5.00	CLUB SET 10:00-2:00 COVER $3.00	CLUB SET 10:00-3:00 COVER $3:00

Sharp Words at SHARP Meeting When HBHC Announces South Side Testing Facility

by P.J. Engelbrecht

The South Side HIV/AIDS Resource Providers (SHARP) met at South Shore Hospital Nov. 17, and heard about North Side-based Howard Brown Health Center's plans to institute a gay and lesbian-focused HIV-testing program on the South Side.

HBHC executive director Eileen Durkin had been invited to address the gathering of about 30 HIV/AIDS service administrators, partly to dispel a gathering storm of rumors about HBHC's intentions.

Accompanied by Rashad Burgess, who will administer the new program, and his supervisor, Denise Miles, Durkin outlined a simple plan.

"All we're proposing to do is ... offer HIV testing services out of a South Side site," Durkin told BLACKLINES. "We are ... focus[ed] on people who live on the South Side who do identify as gay and lesbian. A health center that identifies as gay and lesbian ... should give [the African-American lesbigay community] a sense of comfort."

Durkin said the new program would probably be located initially at an existing HBHC/Stop AIDS office at 75th and Jeffrey, "a location that we do not find highly desirable," because it's not close to public transportation.

But many audience members greeted Durkin's announcement with skepticism. SHARP member Robert Schultz summarized that viewpoint as "a feeling that Howard Brown as an entity needed to have reached out to the community ... rather than acting unilaterally, because there are testing sites [on the South Side] not listed in the [Test Positive Aware Network AIDS resource] journal." (Schultz is also a sr. BLACKLINES reporter.) Others charged HBHC with institutional racism.

"It wasn't proactive," said New Phoenix's Gwendolyn Mastin of HBHC's plan. She criticized HBHC for appearing to "follow the dollars" from the original, mainly white, North Side locus of the AIDS epidemic to the communities of color on the South and West sides now bearing the brunt of new cases. Mastin suggested HBHC seeks only to expand their influence.

"I'm resentful," Mastin declared after the meeting. "I think they're capable people, there's good service providers, there's people to develop the services [already] right here on the South Side and on the West Side. ... We don't need [to be] taken care of. ... We need to take ownership.

"This is a problem that we need to address ... from the cradle to the grave, and we can do that ourselves, so I'm gonna stand up against anything or anyone that goes against that," Mastin asserted.

> "Everyone can get AIDS, yes ... but we're talking about a very specific [HBHC] service targeting African-American gays and lesbians, [examining] how do we do that on the South Side," Burgess said.

Jim Harvey, of the Greater Chicago Committee, said he thought Durkin had been "totally dishonest [about HBHC's] motives." Harvey is convinced that HBHC actually has NIH research grant monies available and "wants to come to the South Side and research Black people and take all the money back to the North Side."

Durkin insists that the HBHC testing program will be funded by Ryan White CARE Act Title III monies dedicated to HIV/AIDS care—funds Howard Brown already has—not by prevention funds, as some critics suggested, and not by 'raiding' the community's other HIV/AIDS funding.

"I've heard a lot of the the fears," said Burgess, who denied the 'covert testing' accusations. "I've heard stories about [how] Howard Brown ran blind tests on Black folks: never happened, in the history of Howard Brown. Never happened."

"Tuskegee will not happen on the South Side," Burgess declared, referring to the infamous Tuskegee syphilis study done by the U.S. government on Black men.

Durkin told BLACKLINES that HBHC has "no plans currently" to do research on the South Side, but added that "if [money] appeared, we would approach our community advisory board" about the options. That is, HBHC's South Side testing facility will have such an advisory board.

Burgess and Miles were troubled that critical issues were overlooked during the heated SHARP meeting. "No one talked about gays and lesbians, once again," Burgess pointed out. "[Nor about] the whole issue of homophobia. ... It's dismissed, as if it's not being appropriate.

"Everyone can get AIDS, yes ... but we're talking about a very specific [HBHC] service targeting African-American gays and lesbians, [examining] how do we do that on the South Side, [asking] is it something we should do, or that we need to do, and that discussion really wasn't articulated, and it's a shame that it got lost in the smoke screen of dollars and the smoke screen of fears."

Burgess suggested that HIV/AIDS service providers on the South and West sides struggle to skirt the issue of "MSMs" and "WSMs" ["men who have sex with men," and "women who have sex with women"], using jargon to avoid mentioning African American gays and lesbians outloud.

"What we're trying to do is ... destroy the closet," Miles Miles told BLACKLINES, adding that community homophobia was not the only social concern at issue. The fear of North Side insensitivity to South and West side African-American culture and community needs has a basis in past experiences and deserves serious attention, too, she said.

"It is going to take a very long time to try to change community perception ... by beginning to implement programs that *are* [sensitive to African Americans], but within the mission of [HBHC] being a gay, lesbian, bisexual organization. Are we still going to try it? Yeah," Miles said. "You are going to have a program that's run in a community by its community members. You are *not* going to have the 'Howard Brown powers that be' swoop in and manage it and then go back north. ... If we provide ... sensitive services to this population, then nobody's gonna complain in the long run."

The issues are complex, as well as thorny. Chicago Dept. of Public Health official Ann Meegan attended the SHARP meeting, but declined to comment afterward.

Mayoral lesbigay liaison Mary Morten was more forthcoming, though taking a 'wait and see' attitude. "[This is] the beginning of a number of discussions that [must happen] between Howard Brown and communities on the South Side," Morten said.

"I don't have enough information at this point" to judge whether the proposed HBHC testing site will be a benefit, Morten said. She has not taken a position on the HBHC proposal, though she affirmed her concern: "Any time there's community tension, the Commission on Human Relations has to respond."

Additional reporting by LaJaunessee Jordan

Howard Brown Health Center

Monday, December 1
is **World AIDS Day**

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YOU NEED TO KNOW!

free anonymous HIV testing

Howard Brown Health Center and
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1718 East 75th Street,
773.752.7867

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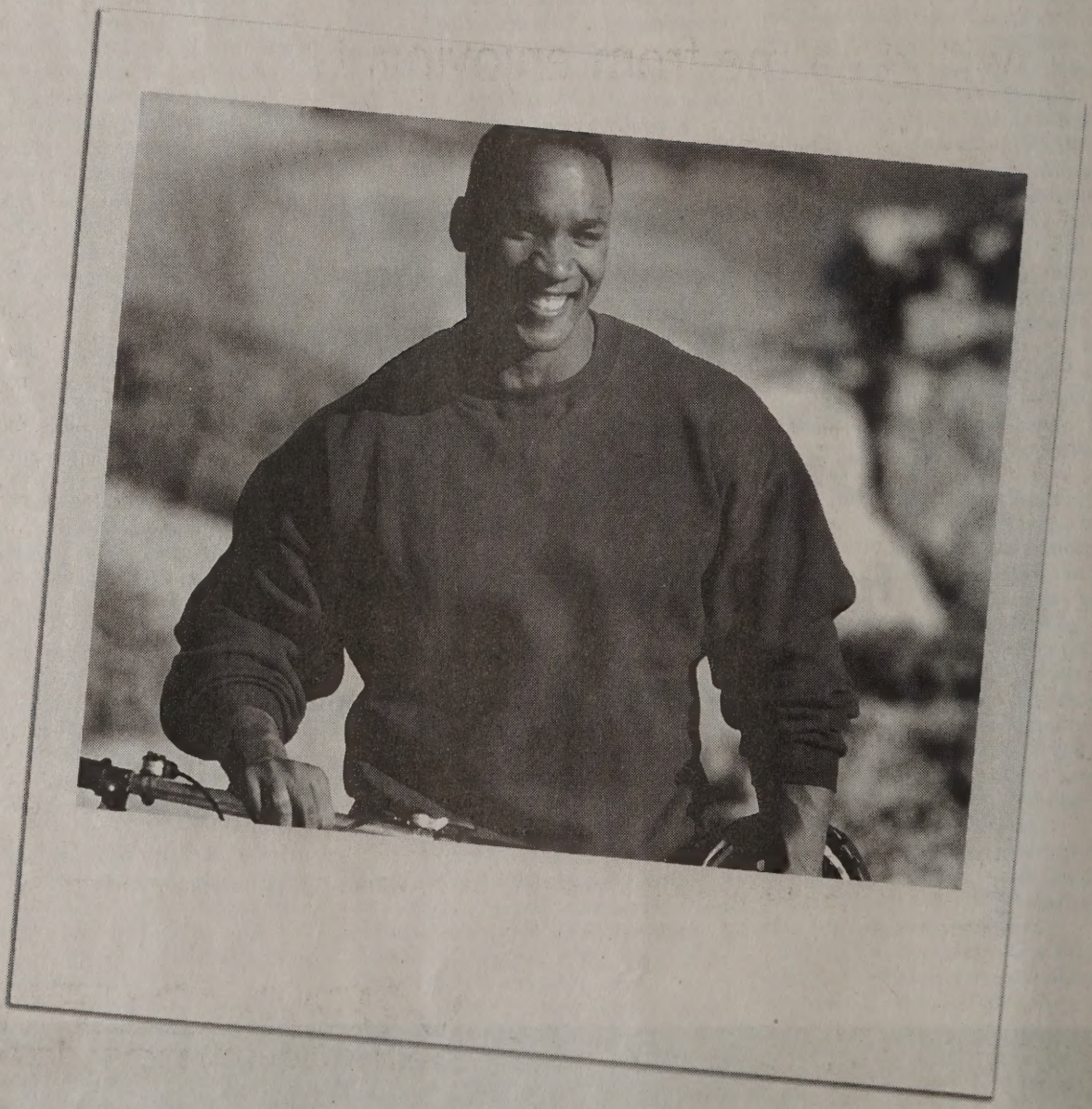
HEALTH CENTER
Chicago's Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Health Center



"Why should I prolong my life if the medicine will keep me from enjoying it?"

If this is what you believe, then here's something new to consider.

Treatments and what we know about HIV are changing. We've learned that even if you look good and feel healthy, the virus is fighting every day against your immune system—a fight it may someday win.

VIRACEPT is a powerful new protease inhibitor now available for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. VIRACEPT is generally well-tolerated, is taken three times a day with your normal meals or light snacks, and requires no special dietary restrictions.

Most importantly, VIRACEPT is effective. In many people, VIRACEPT lowered the amount of HIV in the blood to levels below the limit of detection of the test used, and substantially increased CD4 cell counts after 24 weeks of triple combination therapy. And in laboratory studies, HIV obtained from five patients that became resistant to VIRACEPT was not resistant to other protease inhibitors. (The clinical significance of laboratory studies of protease inhibitor resistance and changes in viral RNA levels in blood has not been established for VIRACEPT. The virus may still be present in other organ systems.)

People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea in approximately 20% of people in clinical trials. There are some common medications and some AIDS-related medications you should not take with VIRACEPT. It is important to discuss with your doctor all other medications that you are taking.

We still can't make any long-term promises, since it is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. But we can tell you that yesterday's HIV beliefs are quickly becoming today's myths.

Talk to your doctor about VIRACEPT, and begin to consider something new. Or for more details, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit **www.agouron.com**.

VIRACEPT
nelfinavir mesylate

Refer to the important information on the next page.

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VIRACEPT
nelfinavir mesylate

Information for Patients About VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)
Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

  Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.
- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®

  This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

  These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.
- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

  If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)

  The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.
- Other NNRTIs

  VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)

  The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Norvir™ (ritonavir)

  The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase® (saquinavir)

  The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do **not** have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight Kg	Body Weight Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	-
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1¼	-
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1½	-
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1¾	-
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	-
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2¼	-
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2½	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3¾	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: **A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication** should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do **not** mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do **not** heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do **not** add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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Issued 10/7/97

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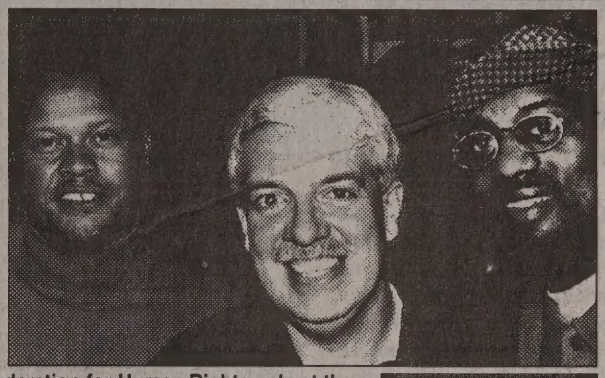
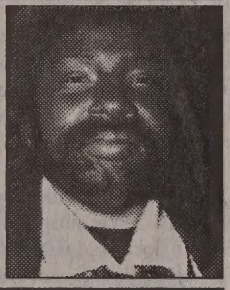


TOP, LEFT: Mary Morten and Dominic Hamilton-Little, MC's for the Illinois Federation for Human Rights gala at the Park West. Photo by Tracy Baim. MIDDLE: Author Jamaica Kincaid at Women & Children First Books. Photo by Israel Wright. RIGHT: DJ Tyrone Mix (center) celebrated his birthday at Club Escape. He's pictured with Club Escape's owners Franklin Deans (left) and Lawrence Johnson. Photo by Lynnell Long. BELOW, LEFT: Anita Hill was in town to promote her new book, in an event co-sponsored by Women & Children First. She's pictured with Kathleen Rose Winter (left) and Elandria Henderson. Photo by Rosalind Glanton. MIDDLE: Dorothy Height receives an award from the Human Rights Campaign in D.C. for her group, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, a long-time civil-rights group (made up of 180+ civil-rights groups) which backs gay-rights legislation. RIGHT: A Halloween partyer at the Closet. Photo by Israel Wright



PICS next month ...

We once again had SOOOO many photos from events this past month that we had to bump most to the next issue. So look for our special January BLACKLINES Wed., Dec. 31— with lots of photo pages.

Low Air Loss Mattresses
Hospital Beds
Wheel Chairs
Bathroom Aids
Glucose Monitors
Nebulizers

Nutritional Supplements
▼ Ensure ▼ New Basics
▼ Advera ▼ Pepteman
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WLS Newstalk 890 special gives straight talk about AIDS in Chicago's African-American Community

On the eve of World AIDS DAY 1997, WLS Newstalk 890 and Aware Talk Radio team up to broadcast a special live, two hour, call-in program called ***Straight Talk: Why African-American Are Dying from AIDS.*** The two-hour special, airing on Sunday, Nov. 30, from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., tackles the complex issue of the increasing impact of the HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care.

According to Chicago Department of Public Health HIV/AIDS specialist, Lora Branch, local and national statistics reflect the urgency behind getting the message out that AIDS is increasingly and disproportionately affecting African-Americans. "According to the CDC, AIDS is now one of the five leading causes of death among African-Americans in the U.S.," said Branch. "And while African-Americans make up only 40% of Chicago's population, 64% of Chicago's reported AIDS cases are among African-American men, women and children."

During the special, a panel of African-American community leaders and African-Americans living with HIV will focus on the many reasons for the increasing spread of HIV and possible ways to fight it. Program guests, including Ald. Lorraine Dixon, Rev. Willie Barrow (whose son died of AIDS complications), Ray Lewis Thornton (a woman living with AIDS) and Dr. Aaron Hamb, will discuss issues including religious and cultural attitudes stigmatizing HIV prevention efforts, misunderstanding and distrust of new HIV drugs, health barriers to care and other problems facing the African-American community that are fueling the HIV epidemic.

Straight Talk hosts, HIV-positive journalist Chris DeChant and African-American journalist Hope Daniels, worked with 15 HIV/AIDS service organizations to produce this World AIDS Day special. Call (312) 541-8255.

Weekly radio show features a faith-based perspective on AIDS in Black community

"A Message of Hope in this Time of AIDS" is a nationally produced half-hour weekly radio program now being broadcast locally on WVON (1450 a.m.) on Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. The African American AIDS Network, the local co-sponsor of the program, held an October reception at the Community Renewal Society to announce the show.

The show has been in production since 1996, when the it first appeared on a gospel station in New York. Due to format change the show is no longer heard in New York. However, the program is on in Detroit.

The Balm in Gilead, Inc. produces the "A Message of Hope" along with other media targeted at the African American Christian community. The mission of Balm in Gilead is to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, and to support those infected with, and affected by AIDS. The radio show, pamphlets, and audio cassettes produced by the group are intended to give African American clergy information that is theologically, culturally, and scientifically sound to initiate meaningful discussion about the AIDS pandemic in communities of faith. The Chicago inaugural reception was co-sponsored by 15 Black organizations.

Materials distributed by the group do not skirt the issue of homosexuality. Instead, the materials distributed by the Balm in Gilead reflect the opening of a dialogue with the Black Christian church that many HIV and Black lesbigay activists have long desired.

Among the written and audio materials offered by Balm in Gilead are essays by openly gay and HIV positive Phill Wilson, Dr. Cornel West and by Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright.

Montel being sued

Talk host Montel Williams is being sued by a former employee who is gay. The man alleges that Williams ridiculed him for being gay and also harassed him, including by giving him sex toys.

MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE

Saturday, Dec. 6

16th Mid-Winter Crafts Festival

The 16th Annual Mid-Winter Crafts Festival runs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Celebrate the annual Mini-Fest with artisans and merchants from all over the country. There will be a table for free stuff. Bring things you'd like to pass along. Take things that you want.

Come to shop, browse, eat chili and cornbread, and schmooze the day away.

1650 West Foster

Ebenezer Lutheran Church

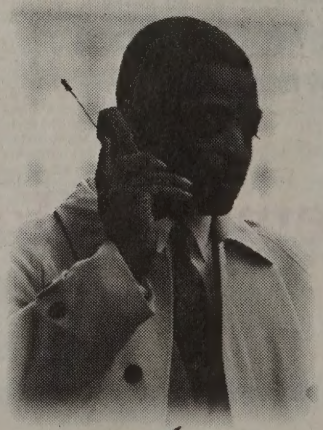
Showtime 7:30 p.m..

Women & Children Only. Suggested Donation. 773-973-9934

HIV Positive?

Riding a wave of health? Don't know what to do next?

CONTACT



HORIZONS

Psychotherapy Services

773.929.4357

H.E.L.P

BROTHERS C.A.N.

Community Awareness Network

GAMBA

Discussion group for Gay & Bisexual Men of African descent. In cooperation with the Minority Outreach Intervention Project. Held at MOIP Offices, 1255 S. Wabash

Wednesday, December 10, 7-9 p.m
Lesbians & Gay/Sisters & Brothers: Understanding One Another

Thursday, December 27, 7-9 p.m.
KWANZAA Celebration. KUJICHAGULIA, a day of self determination.

Sketch by Sean Holman

Cafe Noir, a safer sex discussion group held every Monday, 6-8 p.m.

Social Night, a gathering for Brothers every Thursday, 6-8 p.m.

Held at STOP AIDS, 1718 East 75th Street Office
For information, call **773.752.7867**

STOP AIDS

A subsidiary of Howard Brown Health Center

ARTS & THEATRE

THEATRE

Openings

Dec. 2: **Theater Q** series continues with *Advice from a Caterpillar,* by Douglas Carter Beane. Sheil Park, 3505 N. Southport, 7:30 pm, $5 donation (773) 271-9287

Dec. 12: **A Real Read,** Chicago's new lesbigaytrans performance ensemble, in an evening of performance, music, and poetry about being a member of both African-American and sexual/gender orientation minority groups. Dec. 12-13, 8pm Randolph Street $10. (312) 666-7737.

In Performance

Chi-Chi-Chi! Created collectively by the Latino Chicago ensemble of actors, text by Migdalia Cruz, directed by Juan A. Ramierz and Meighan Gerachis. Latino Chicago Thtr Co at The Firehouse (773) 486-5120.

The Christmas Schooner based on true 19th century Chicago stories of the Stossel family who sailed the icy waters of Lake Michigan to post-fire Chicago and saw opportunity for holiday traditions to continue here and a risky business venture. Third annual presentation of the Bailiwick's most highly attended play. Bailiwick (773) 883-1090.

Lizard Music This Joyous musical includes a lizard version of The Star Spangled Banner, by openly gay composer Douglas Wood and stars, as lizards, gay actors Jerry McIlvain and Stephen Rader. Lifeline Thtr, thru Jan. 4, (773) 761-4477.

RENT Best Musical 1996 Tony Award, 1996 Pulitzer Prize. Shubert. (312) 902-1500.

Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind. Thirty constantly changing plays in 60 minutes, every F and S 11:30p and S 7p. The Neo-Futurarium, (773) 275-5255.

TV time ... Former Chicagoan **Seraiah Carol** has another sitcom bid—on the Dec. 7 ***Men Behaving Badly*** (as a basketball coach). Seraiah was on *Seinfeld* earlier this year. ... **Fox-TV** local news anchor **Robin Robinson** had a very personal story last month—a two-part feature on her older brother's death from AIDS and his 20-year struggle to beat heroin.

DANCE

Dance Chicago '97, Cerqua/Rivera last performance Nov. 26; *Forward Motion*, contemporary, including *;Choreographer's Showcase*, Nov. 28; *Jazz It UP!*, Nov. 29; Athenaeum Thtr, (773) 935-6860.

Dec. 3: **The Joel Hall Dancers** *Nuts and Bolts: A Jazzy Nutcracker for the 90s.* An irreverent recourse from run-of-the mode seasonal celebration. Thru Dec. 7, The Athenaeum Thtr (773) 784-8347.

Dec. 12: **Margaret Jenkins Dance Co**. *Fault* explores cause and effect and the intense energy of environmental, social and historical fault lines through everyday life. (312) 397-4010.

ART/PHOTO

The Dusable Museum of African American History *Amistad* In 1839, on the Spanish slave ship La Amistad, 39 African captives, led by Cinque, rebelled and were captured off the Eastern seaboard after failing in a desperate attempt to return home. A civil rights battle then continued for two years in prisons, town greens, the courtrooms of Connecticut and the Supreme Court. The display begins in the Mende (African) village, and includes the capture, revolt, trial and return. Ship records, graphics, maps, reproductions of correspondence are part of the 5,000 sq. ft interactive exhibit. Simulated dock pilings hold telephones which narrate the story, thru June 30, 1998. Harold Washington In Office, a permanent exhibition, features composite office setting comprised of memorabilia and personal effects from HW. (312) 947-0600.

Izzo's Artery *1st Year Anniversary Show* 16 artists. Different cultures, sexualities, ethnic and racial groups come together at Izzo's in a compassionate & comfortable setting. Thru Dec. 19. (312) 663-0938

Randolph Street Gallery *Trace*, a multi-disciplinary project exploring the role of race and ethnicity in the construction of contemporary identity, our guided and misguided assumptions. Includes. Poetry, performance and prose by Donna blue Lachman, M. Evalina Galang, Ray Gonzalez, Beja James, Tyehimba Jess, Melysha Sargis. $8, 7:30pm. *T-Race*, group exhibition with the premise that race is always there as dominant or secondary content in art; five artists, with McArthur Binion and Alice Harvgrave. Also, *Prayer for my Son and Myself*, sound installation in honor of a father's struggle to be a model and guide. (312) 666-7737

UIC's African-American Cultural Center *The Bull: Historic overview of a Championship*, a photo exhibit thru Nov. 28 (312) 996-9549.

IMANI UMOJA

Brothers of Color are cordially invited to the opening of

IMANI UMOJA

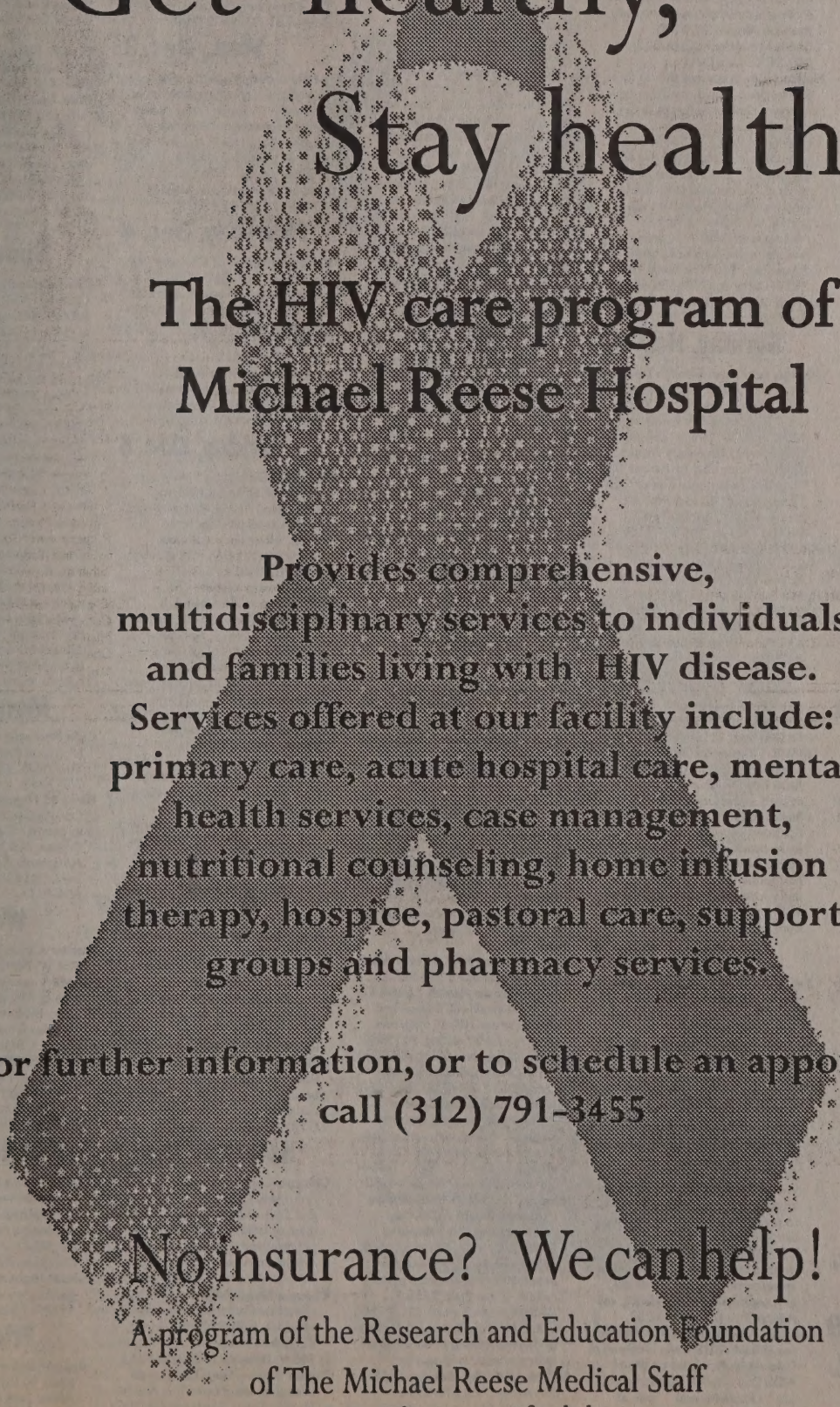
a discussion group for African American men to dialogue about our lives, loves & brotherhood

Thursday, December 18th, 1997 • 6 pm - 9 pm
Grand Boulevard Plaza, Sinai Family Health Center
5401 S. Wentworth, Chicago IL
More information at 773-907-8993

Sponsored by *BlackLines* Magazine & Sinai Family Health Center

Get healthy, Stay healthy

The HIV care program of Michael Reese Hospital



Provides comprehensive, multidisciplinary services to individuals and families living with HIV disease. Services offered at our facility include: primary care, acute hospital care, mental health services, case management, nutritional counseling, home infusion therapy, hospice, pastoral care, support groups and pharmacy services.

For further information, or to schedule an appointment, call (312) 791-3455

No insurance? We can help!

A program of the Research and Education Foundation
of The Michael Reese Medical Staff
A Ryan White care act funded agency

CALENDAR

Wed., Nov. 26

GAMBA Discussion group for gay/bi men. In collaboration with BROTHERS Community Awareness Network (Brothers C.A.N.) and Nu'Man, a prog under Minority Outreach & Intervention Proj. This week's topic: Current gay legislation. (773) 752-7867.

Star Plaza Theatre The O'Jays, Bernie Mac and the Whispers, Nov. 26, 28, 29. (219) 769-6600.

Temptations Pre-Turkey Bash (847) 455-0008

Thursday, Nov. 27

Girlbar Meltdown every Thurs--$1 drafts. DJ Jim Lewis. 2625 Halsted. (773) 871-4210.

Temptations open Thanksgiving. 10235 W Grand, Franklin Pk. (847)455-0008

"Turkey Time" with Frankie Knuckles. D/E Entertainment with FK Enterprises present the internationally renowned DJ who has revolutionized dance floors for over 25 yrs. "The Godfather" has spun at The Sound Factory Bar in NYC of late and has played a pivotal role in shaping "house music" as the dominant dance club staple worldwide. Frankie's made two records--"Beyond the Mix" & "Welcome to the Real World"--& produced/remixed for such artists as Janet Jackson, Pet Shop Boys, Diana Ross, Luther Vandross, Chaka Khan, Toni Braxton, New Edition, Michael Jackson and Michael Bolton. Doors open 10pm at 1543 N Kingsbury.

Friday, Nov.28

4th Annual Halsted Tree Sale, thru Dec 24, benefits the Ill. Federation for Human Rights. Lg selection of wreaths, garlands and 3'-14' trees. At the European & US Car Service Lot, 3500 N Halsted (at Cornelia). (773) 477-7173.

Cafe Pride Drop-in for lesbian, gay, transgendered and questioning youth. Every Friday, 8pm-midnight. Refreshments provided at no charge. No cover. Lake View Presbyterian Church, 716 Addison. (773) 784-2635 or email CafePride@rocketmail.com.

Kindred Hearts Women's Center Video night. 7:30pm, suggested $3-5. 2214 N. Ridge, Evanston. (847) 604-0913.

Rainbow Roller Rink Gay & Lesbian Skate Night--back by popular demand. Every Friday 11:30pm-3am. 4836 N. Clark.

Southern Girls Thanksgiving Ball, Ebony and Ivory Entertainment Restaurant, 251 Court Ave., Memphis, TN. (901) 743-6563.

Unity Temple Interweave queer/q-friendly organization's Gay & Lesbian Film Series presents *Go Fish*, written/dir by Rose Troche, filmed in Chicago's Wicker Pk, b&w, 1994. 7:30pm, free. Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Cong, 875 Lake St, Oak Pk. (708)848-6225 or www.unitytemple.org.

Saturday, Nov. 29

African American Church Unites for World AIDS Day: Weekend of Celebration begins with 11am "'Joshua Generation' Youth Conference, followed by 7pm "'Living in a World of AIDS' Memorial". At Trinity United Church of Christ, 400 W 95th, Rev Dr Jeremiah Wright, sr pastor. Info Brandon Armani (773) 737-5400x118; June McCain (312) 409-2437. Thru Dec1.

Holiday Extravaganza 97 Art Sims & Associates, together with a committee of concerned friends & family present a special tribute to Jacquie Haselrig of WGCI 107.5FM for her years of giving "Music of Love & Inspiration.," and a portion of proceeds will be donated to an established community-based org supporting the welfare of African-Americans in need. An evening of dancing, networking & surprises. 10pm-2am, $10. The Shark Bar, 212 N Canal St. (773) 635-6265.

In Your Wildest Dreams--Bad Girls' 2nd Chance Prom (773) 271-4378.

Sunday, Nov. 30

African American Church Unites for World AIDS Day: Weekend of Celebration continues with 2pm dinner, "'Embracing Our Family in the World of AIDS' Dinner" co-hosted by Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church (Pastor Clay Evans) and First Church of Deliverance (Pastor Otto T Houston). At 4315 S Wabash. Info Brandon Armani (773) 737-5400x118; June McCain (312) 409-2437. Thru Dec1.

Association of Latin Men in Action Thanksgiving Brunch, (773) 918-5067, #3.

AWARE Talk Radio and WLS Newstalk 890 Special live two-hour call-in show on eve of World AIDS Day. "Straight Talk: Why More African-Americans Are Dying from AIDS." 11 p.m.-1 a.m., (312) 541-8255.

Fairy Gardeners' Guild (aka FAGG) 3pm, (312) 485-9338.

WPWR-TV (channel 50) broadcasts a one-hour special program, "World AIDS Day 97: Chicago Responds," as part on the series "The Power to Make a Difference." WGCI's Jeanne Sparrow hosts the show, which looks closely at AIDS services in mental health, case management, HIV testing, housing, food service and educational outreach in the larger Chicago community. Broadcast 8pm, repeated at 11:30pm.

Monday, Dec.1

1st-ever "Until It's Over" e-March on Washington will be launched by Pres Clinton, www.aidsaction.org, until AIDS Day 1998.

2nd World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil and Walk, Division and Artesian Sts, 4:30pm, concludes 6pm performance of "*El Grito Del Barrio Contra El SIDA*" at Humboldt Park Parish House, 2757 W. LeMoyne, and Puerto Rican dinner will be served, $6. This year's theme, "Give Children Hope in a World with AIDS" will be commemorated during this affirming tribute to persons who have lived and died with HIV/AIDS. Sponsored by Vida/SIDA HIV/STD Prevention Project. Organizations and individuals welcome. For info and to confirm organizational attendance, call Arlene Ortiz (773) 278-6737.

African American Church Unites for World AIDS Day: Weekend of Celebration concludes on World AIDS Day with "'A Celebration of Life': Gospel Musical." 7pm, at Sweet Holy Spirit Full Gospel Baptists Church, 8621-39 S South Chicago (East), Bishop Larry D Trotter, sr pastor. Info Brandon (773) 737-5400x118; June (312) 409-2437.

AIDS Care, Inc Parties for Life hosted in private homes throughout the month of December, to raise funds and heighten awareness. Details, (773) 935-4663.

Bonaventure House commemorates World AIDS Day by welcoming the public for coffee, treats, good conversation and house tours, from 7:30am-10pm. Residents & volunteers will distribute red ribbons to promote education & awareness to all people at risk, and to remember those whose lives AIDS has taken. 825 Wellington. (312) 751-8878.

Cafe Noir safer sex discussion group for gay/bi men, sponsored by BROTHERS C.A.N. Every Mon 6-8pm. Stop AIDS, 1718 E 75th. (773) 752-7867.

Chicago Cultural Center "Day Without Art" international memorial to artists silenced by AIDS features various artists in 15 min. performances each hour, followed by 45 min. of silence. Artists include Outabounds Performance Co, Ten Tongues, Pablo Helguera, Jesse Stanford, Sons of the Never Wrong, and Equity Library Theatre reading from *Angels in America* 11am-6pm. A panel from the NAMES Quilt is on display thru Dec 2. 78 E Washington. (312) 744-1424. ALSO: 1 p.m., **Alexandra Billings** and **Gino DeLuca** will pay tribute to World AIDS Day and the birthday of pop diva Bette Midler with a free musical performance, 77 E. Randolph.

World AIDS Day with the Chicago Dept of Public Health: Mayor Richard M Daley presents 1997 Awards for Excellence in HIV?AIDS Prevention, Education & Direct Services in a noon ceremony at Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St. Details, Grace Young (312) 747-9644.

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation 9th Annual GLAAD Media Awards. nominations for 1997 work in advertising, film, magazine, music, newspaper, television and theatre DUE Dec 1. Awards will be held Mar 30 at NY Hilton, Apr 4 in Wash, DC, and April 19 at Century Plaza Hotel in LA. Info: (213) 658-6775 in LA or (212) 807-1700 in NY; email www.glaad.org.

Holy Covenant MCC World AIDS Day Service (630) 325-8488.

Howard Brown Health Center Get tested on World AIDS Day-- you need to know. HBHC offers free, anonymous HIV testing. At HBHC, 4025 N Sheridan, (773) 388-8660; and at Stop AIDS South Shore Cntr, 1718 E 75t (773) 752-7867.

Lesbian Community Cancer Project free on-going support group for women with cancer/cancer histories & care-givers. 1st Mondays.: Dec 1, 7-9pm, "Telling our stories." Info (773) 561-4662.

Minority Outreach Intervention Project's World AIDS Day "Celebrating Life" Breakfast Buffet & Ceremony includes continental breakfast, guest speakers, entertainment and a local artists' exhibit. 10am-2pm. 1255 S Wabash, Suite 2 south. (312) 986-0661. MOIP welcomes all pledges & donations made to benefit programs & services of agency.

World AIDS Day Service 5655 S University (773) 271-4616.

Tuesday, Dec. 2

Urban Gateways kicks off "Lend Us a Hand! Campaign" with a "Wake Up Call" breakfast hosted by CBS News2 Chicago's Steve Baskerville, with guests Bernie Mac, *ER*'s Harry Lennix, Shirley King & the Chicago Blues Band, Ruben Alvarez & El Trio Tropical and Kopano. Planet Hollywood, (312) 922-0440.

Wed., Dec. 3

Anarchy Incorporated headlines a show that's "something completely different" in "mongrel dog" performance experience of fiction-music-cabaret-etc, includes Lambda's own Sukie de la Croix and Lynda Licina, at Subterranean. (773) 665-0272

House of Blues, Aretha Franklin 6:30 pm, (312) 923-2023.

Thursday, Dec. 4

AIDS Foundation of Chicago "All the Trimmings," (312) 922-2322.

Kindred Hearts Women's Center Women's bookgroup reads Jeanette Witnerson's *Sexing the Cherry*, 7:30pm. 2214 Ridge, Evanston. (847) 604-0913.

Social Night at Stop AIDS for gay/bi men, sponsored by BROTHERS C.A.N. Every Thurs 6-8pm. 1718 E 75th. (773) 752-7867

Friday, Dec. 5

Cafe Pride Drop-in for lesbian, gay, transgendered and questioning youth. Every Friday, 8pm-midnight. Refreshments provided at no charge. No cover. Lake View Presbyterian Church, 716 Addison. (773) 784-2635 or email CafePride@rocketmail.com.

MACT (Men of All Colors Together) General membership meeting, 7:30-9pm, Ann Sather's, 929 W Belmont. (312)409-6916.

Rainbow Roller Rink Gay & Lesbian Skate Night--back by popular demand. Friday 11:30p-3a. 4836 N. Clark.

Reproductive Technologies Symposium, "Changing Conceptions: How Science and Law are Shaping Future Generations." (312) 906-5090 or rvicario@kentlaw.edu

School of the Art Institute presents "Emotional Intelligence, Education and the Brain: A Symposium" in conjunction with Foundation for Human Potential. Experts in fields from psychiatry to cultural anthropology discuss how the brain & the environment affect emotional intelligence. 7:45am-4:15pm. To register, call Joanne Donda (312) 345-3514. 112 S Michigan.

Wood St Gallery 4th Annual Holiday Sale features artist-made gifts under $200, thru Dec 24. Wood St teams up with 30 other Bucktown/ Wicker Pk merchants for "Purchase with a Point Holiday Sale" Dec 5-7, to benefit Deborah's Place shlter for homeless women. 1239 N Wood. (773) 227-3306

Saturday, Dec. 6

Chicago Cultural Center *In the Spirit* series: "Rhymes, Rhythms, and Tales of High Adventure" program of fables, fairy tales and puppet theatrical *A Winter's Tale* will delight audience of all ages. 2pm. 78 E Washington. (312)744-6630.

Chicago Gender Society "A Christmas Gathering" with entertainment, buffet, raffle, dancing. $35 adv/$40 at door. Ann Sather's, 929 W Belmont. (708) 863-7714.

Logan Square Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Neighbors 2nd Annual Holiday Social. Guest speaker Mary Morten; social event includes a raffle sponsored by Logan's Queer News. Attendees encouraged to bring a dish or beverage to share. 6:30-9:30pm, Grace United Church of Logan Square, 3325 Wrightwood. RSVP (773) 342-0327.

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn and Children, 16th Mid-Winter Crafts Festival, 11AM-6PM. (773) 973-9934. Ebeneezer Church, Foster just west of Ashland.

Star Plaza Theatre Rhythm of Love Tour: Will Downing, and Regina Belle, 8pm. (773) 721-4600.

Windy City Performing Arts 19th Holiday Concert, "Don We Now XIX: Sounds of the Season" showcases Windy City Gay Chorus, Unison:Windy City Lesbian & Gay Singers, Aria and Windy City Slickers, Sat Dec 6,8pm; Sun Dec 7, 3pm. (773) 404-9242.

Sunday, Dec. 7

AIDS Outreach Ministry "Give Children HOPE in a World of AIDS," AIDS worship and memorial, 11 a.m., Maple Park U.M., 1225 W. 117th St. Pastor Rev. Albert Spears and Evelyn Jackson, chai.

Literary Exchange Annual Potluck Sharing 3-7pm. Program begins at 4pm: monthly book discussion of Lisa Moore's *Does Your Mama Know*, featuring readings by anthology contributors Tiffani Frazier *& Sheree Slaughter; special readings by CC Carter, Vernita Gray, Donna Rose, A Real Read members & other Chicago artists; sharing of your own "Coming Out Stories" in a group discussion; PLUS a silent auction, all to benefit The Literary Exchange yearly programs, whose mission is to promote the literature of & literacy in Women of Color. Not-for-profit, so all donations *& gifts are tax-deductible. Bring a dish or beverage to serve 6. Men encouraged to attend. (773) 509-6881.

Monday, Dec. 8

Cafe Noir safer sex discussion group for gay/bi men. Every Mon 6-8pm. Stop AIDS, 1718 E 75th. (773) 752-7867.

Kindred Hearts Women's Center Coming Out Further Group meets to discuss "The Coming Out Process: Self Identity/Self Acceptance." 7pm, $5 ($3 members). 2214 Ridge, Evanston. (847) 604-0913.

Wed., Dec. 10

Berlin Women's Obsession Night. 954 W. Belmont.

GAMBA discussion group for gay/bi men of African descent: Dec 10 topic, Brothers & Sisters / Gays & Lesbians Understanding One Another. Stop AIDS, in collaboration wiith BROTHERS Community Awareness Network (BROTHERS C.A.N.) and Nu'Man, a prog under Minority Outreach Intervention Proj. 1255 S Wabash. (773) 752-7867.

Thursday, Dec.11

Girlbar hosts Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, lesbian candidate for Washington Congressmember attending a benefit for State Rep Jan Schakowsky, candidate for Congress. (847) 424-1998.

Social Night at Stop AIDS for gay/bi men. Every Thurs 6-8pm. 1718 E 75th. (773) 752-7867

Friday, Dec. 12

Randolph Street Gallery *A Real Read*, by Chicago new lesbigaytrans Af-Am performance ensemble directed by Byron Stewart, develops works to be presented with T-race art exhibit "to testify to the distinc-

tive experiences of a minority within a minority" through poetry, prose, music and vignettes. Thru Sat Dec 13. 8pm, $10 ($6 students). 756 Milwaukee, (312) 666-7737.

Sat.y, Dec. 13

Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Gay & Lesbian Issues (ACGLI), Lesbigay Radio and Outlines/Blacklines/En La Vida present Color Triangle II: A different look at racism in our community. The discussion continues,...the action begins! 10am-1pm; rsvp (773) 973-3999. Multipurpose Rm B, Harold Washington Library. ADA accessible & ASL interpreter available with 72 hrs notice. Presented in cooperation with Affinity, ALMA, Amigas Latinas, CBLG, Clubhouse Prods, Horizons, HBHC, Khuli Zaban and SideTrack.

Sunday, Dec. 14

Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays celebrate "Home for the Holidays," featuring *A Real Read*, cash bar at 5pm; performance at 6pm. $25; limited seated; tickets deadline Dec 8. Tix available from CBLG steering committee members; by sending check/m.o. to CBLG, PO Box 14811, Chicago, 60614-1181; or (312) 409-4917. 756 N Milwaukee.

Parents And Friends of Lesbians and Gays Glenview meeting, 2pm. Congregation BJBE, 901 Milwaukee Avenue, Glenview. (847) 968-9060.

Rainbow Families hosts a Holiday Party 1:30-3:30pm, in Oak Pk. For details call (630) 585-3920. (RF is a social/educational group for gay/lesbian parents & prospective parents.)

Star Plaza Theatre Colors of Christmas starring Roberta Flack, Jeffrey Osborne, Melissa Manchester & Al Jarreau, 7pm. $29. Merrillville, IN. (773) 721-4600.

Mon., Dec. 15

BEHIV "Positively Gay" Mon night support group for HIV+ gay/bi men. BEgins at 6:30pm with optional congregate meal prepared by BEHIV volunteers; group meets promptly at 7:15pm. 516 Church St, Evanston. Contact Dave (847) 475-2115.

Cafe Noir safer sex discussion group for gay/bi men, sponsored by BROTHERS C.A.N. 6-8pm. Stop AIDS, 1718 E 75th. (773) 752-7867.

Rainbow Room Boys' night with DJ Jimmy Lewis.

Steppenwolf Inter-arts Performance series *Traffic*. AEC musicians Roscoe Mitchell (sax), Lester Bowie (trumpet), Malachi Favors Maghostut (bass) & Famoudou Don Moye (percussion) electrify audiences with avant-garde jazz, blues & funk, underscored with brilliant theatrics–ethnic costumes, body paint, poetry, chant, invented instruments and more. $30, 7:30pm. 1650 N Halsted. (312) 335-1650.

Thurs., Dec. 18

Imani Umoja, a new discussion group for brothers of color meets for the 1st time. African American men are invited to dialogue about lives, loves & brotherhood. 6-9pm. Grand Boulevard Plaza, Sinai Family Health Center, 5401 S Wentworth. (773) 907-8993.

Social Night at Stop AIDS for gay/bi men, sponsored by BROTHERS C.A.N. 6-8pm. 1718 E 75t. (773) 752-7867

Friday, Dec. 19

Midwest Womyn's Autumnfest Land Fund Benefit Dance 8pm-Midnight at Ann Sather's Restaurant, 929 Belmont in Chicago. (815) 748-5359.

Star Plaza Theatre Gladys Night (773) 734-7266.

Sat., Dec . 20

Sweet Honey In The Rock Grammy-winning *a cappella* ensemble offers two special family performances at the Art Institute of Chicago. 3pm & 5pm; $7 adults, $1 kids (limit 6 kids/adult). Rubloff Auditorium, (630) 268-1111.

Cafe Noir safer sex discussion for gay/bi men. Every Mon 6-8pm. Stop AIDS, 1718 E 75th. (773) 752-7867.

GAMBA Discussion for gay and bisexual men. Collaboration of the Brothers Community Awareness Network (Brothers C.A.N.) and Minority Outreach & Intervention Project (MOIP). Tonight: Cafe Noir safer sex discussion group, 6pm-8pm. 1255 S. Wabash, (312) 986-0661.

Sun., Dec. 21

PAC Social Club For lesbians of color, over age 25. Social event 4-7p, 515 East 79th St.

Wed., Dec. 24

Club Escape Christmas Celebration 8p-2a, food, fun, music, gifts, cover $5, 1530 E. 75th St.

Thurs., Dec. 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Friday, Dec. 26

Happy Kwanzaa—starts today.

Mon., Dec. 29

Cafe Noir safer sex discussion group for gay/bi men. Every Mon 6-8pm. Stop AIDS, 1718 E 75t. (773) 752-7867.

Wed., Dec. 31

Club Escape New Year's Eve Celebration, 10p-2a, food, fun and complimentary champagne, cover $10, music by house DJ Tyrone Mixx. 1530 E. 75th St.

LesBiGay Radio Drivetime750AM New Yr's Eve Extravaganza rolls with dyke comic Lea DeLaria, rocks with Vanessa Davis Band, dances with Valerie James. 8pm, $65 (21 & over only). Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N Southport. 1-888-GO-OUT-GAY.

JOEL HALL DANCERS

present the award-winning

NUTS & BOLTS

A Jazzy Nutcracker for the 90s

"A rich romp that translates Tchaikovsky's ballet into a contemporary – as in funky – mode . . . Sheer variety propels this tour-de-danse."
–Chicago Tribune

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–Chicago Reader

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HOT PICS

Jacques Cristion held his 27th annual Halloween Ball at 99th & troop. Here are some pics from the event—look for more in the January BLACKLINES, out Dec. 31. BELOW LEFT: Jacques struts for the crowd. TOP LEFT Liepeiz, LaBelle, Mr. Flirtatious and William. RIGHT: Gloria, Sharon, Marci and Darnella. BELOW, RIGHT: Eloise, Al and Boo. Photos by Tracy Baim

ABOVE, LEFT: Last House on the Block's Halloween party. Last House is a South Side recovery support organization. Photo by Tracy Baim. MIDDLE: Natalie (center), Tanya (right) and friend at closing night for Les Femmes Amies at Paris Dance. Photo by Israel Wright. BELOW, LEFT: The PAC Social Club, a group for mature African-American lesbians, over age 25, held their first social for lesbians of color, a bridge party in November. From left are board members Virginia, Annette, Cynthia (president) and Penny. Their next social will be Sunday, Dec. 21, 4-7 p.m., 515 E. 79th. Photo by Lynnell Long. MIDDLE RIGHT: Belinda and Chrystal at the Players Ball 1st anniversary event. BELOW, RIGHT: Phrasority held their last event at Paris Dance (which closed Nov. 15). From left: A Phrasority supporter, Donald, Renae, Reggie and Sandra. Photos by Israel Wright.

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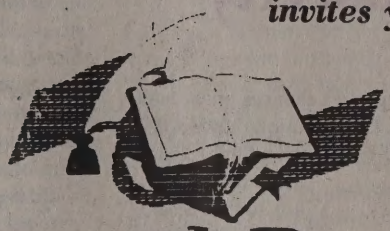

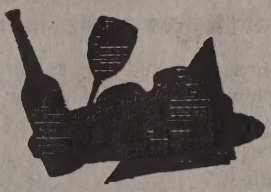

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Also special readings by ***C.C. Carter, Vernita Gray, Donna Rose, members of A Real Read, and other local Chicago artists.***

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The Literary Exchange is a not-for-profit whose mission is to promote the literature of, and to increase the literacy in, Women of Color. All donations and gifts are tax-deductible. Men are encouraged to attend.

For more information, please call (773) 509-6881.

Gubernatorial Candidate Roland Burris Speaks of Inclusivity

News analysis by Jon Dallas

Supporters of Roland Burris wated several months for him to announce his candidacy for governor. On Sept. 3, at the Midland Hotel, Burris made it official. Before an enthusiastic crowd of 200, Burris said he was not entering the race to advance his career or fortune but to further his vision for Illinois.

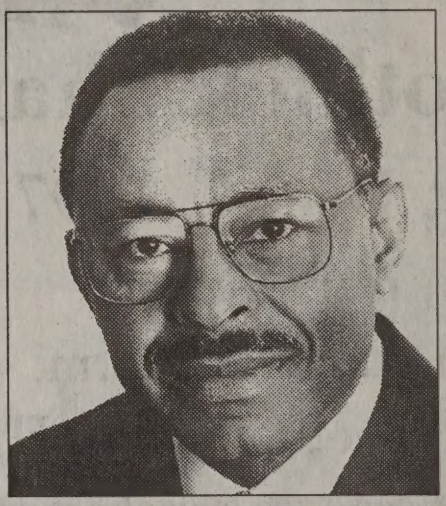
In particular, Burris is concerned for the children of Illinois who can no longer wait for fair educational funding. He accused the state's Republicans of being disingenuous in their efforts. "They [children] have been let down two years in a row by a hard-hearted Republican General Assembly and a Republican governor who four years earlier denounced the very plan he submitted to the legislature this spring," Burris said.

It is for this reason the former Illinois comptroller and attorney general promised the cornerstone of a Burris administration would be education.

Burris said he would introduce his Fair Education Funding Plan to infuse $2.1 billion into Illinois schools over the next six years. "My plan will bring long overdue relief to our poorest schools, without costing taxpayers a single new tax dollar," Burris explained. Burris said his plan will shift budget priorities rather than seeking new revenue to pay for schools. "The budget is $35 billion [and] if I can't find 1 percent in that, I don't need to be governor."

Burris also warned voters about the aftermath of Welfare Reform and said the Republicans were unprepared to move people from welfare to work.

"If we don't act immediately to get all our economic, education and human resource agencies focused on this issue, we could witness a domestic catastrophe of hunger and homelessness among our fellow citizens reminiscent of the Great Depression," said Burris. He said "jobs creation" would be a daily priority of his administration.The gubernatorial candidate became the first African-American to hold statewide office in Illinois when he was elected comptroller in 1978 and held the office for four consecutive terms from 1979-1991 before being elected attorney general. Burris also made a run for governor in 1994 but lost the primary. When asked how that would affect his campaign, Burris said each loss is a learning experience and that he also lost his first race for comptroller in 1976.



Roland Burris

As the chief executive officer of the state, Burris said that he would provide leadership to address the growing moral decay and disrespect in society. I recently had the opportunity to have a one-on-one conversation with Roland Burris.

Jon Dallas: Observers note that having two African-Americans at the top of the ticket in 1998 may be a liability to the party's chances of succeeding. Do you think that is so?

Roland Burris: I think that individuals who are qualified for office ought to run regardless of their race, sex, sexual orientation or nationality and it just so happens that when I was an incumbent, Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun is running for re-election and one happens to be that Roland Burris is the best qualified candidate for governor that the Democratic Party can put up. We should be nominated and take on whoever the Republicans put forth. It's not a matter of our skin color, it's a matter of our skills and abilities. In 1998 anyone who has a problem with that then it's their problem. It cannot be our [Democrats] problem.

JD: No one before or after Harold Washington has been able to mobilize African-American voters in large numbers. Given that you lost the primary for governor [in 1994 against Dawn Clark Netsch] and mayor [in 1995 against Richard M. Daley], why do you think that you can bring out the large number of African-American voters this time that you will need to win the primary?

RB: Both losses were all learning experiences and you gain by having that [losing] experience. In the 1994 primary election, I was out in front by a major margin with 60 days to go in the primary but because of the program on funding education that was put forth and the commercial dollars that came into Ms. Netsch's campaign, that then shifted the momentum. We won't make that mistake again. We're prepared to reach out and offset any of that type of momentum because that program which she put forth has been shot down and contested and we don't see any other programs coming up on the horizon in terms of funding education that would beat our proposal that we're putting out so therefore we're prepared to deal with that one with what we learned from the 1994 primary loss. As far as the 1995 mayoral election was concerned, that was a call from the community. I answered a true draft and now what you will see in 1998 is that momentum [from both losses] collected. Hopefully it will reach the peak of where it was in 1982 leading up to 1983 for Mayor Washington. I have a feeling that is what's happening out there today. I'm so enthused about walking down the street and people are talking from their cars. ... That is happening out there and we're trying to get that energy back. But by the fact that of my having run for mayor in 1995 and individuals knew that I answered their call, they're behind me in 1998 for governor and I look forward to being the nominee [and] I look forward to them turning out in numbers that they could not turn out for me when I ran in 1994 for governor. If you look for what we did in 1995 for mayor, there's no regrets there. In 30 days, we received over 220,000 votes and we only had $250,000 that we raised in 30 days. We had a 30-day campaign against Daley, an incumbent Daley in Chicago, and received 38% of the vote. I think that is a major accomplishment. Did I want to win it? You'd better believe it because I wasn't in it to get 38%. I gave it everything I had and the people responded. I am pretty sure that you will see that response coming out in 1998 that will overwhelm us on March 17 [primary election day].

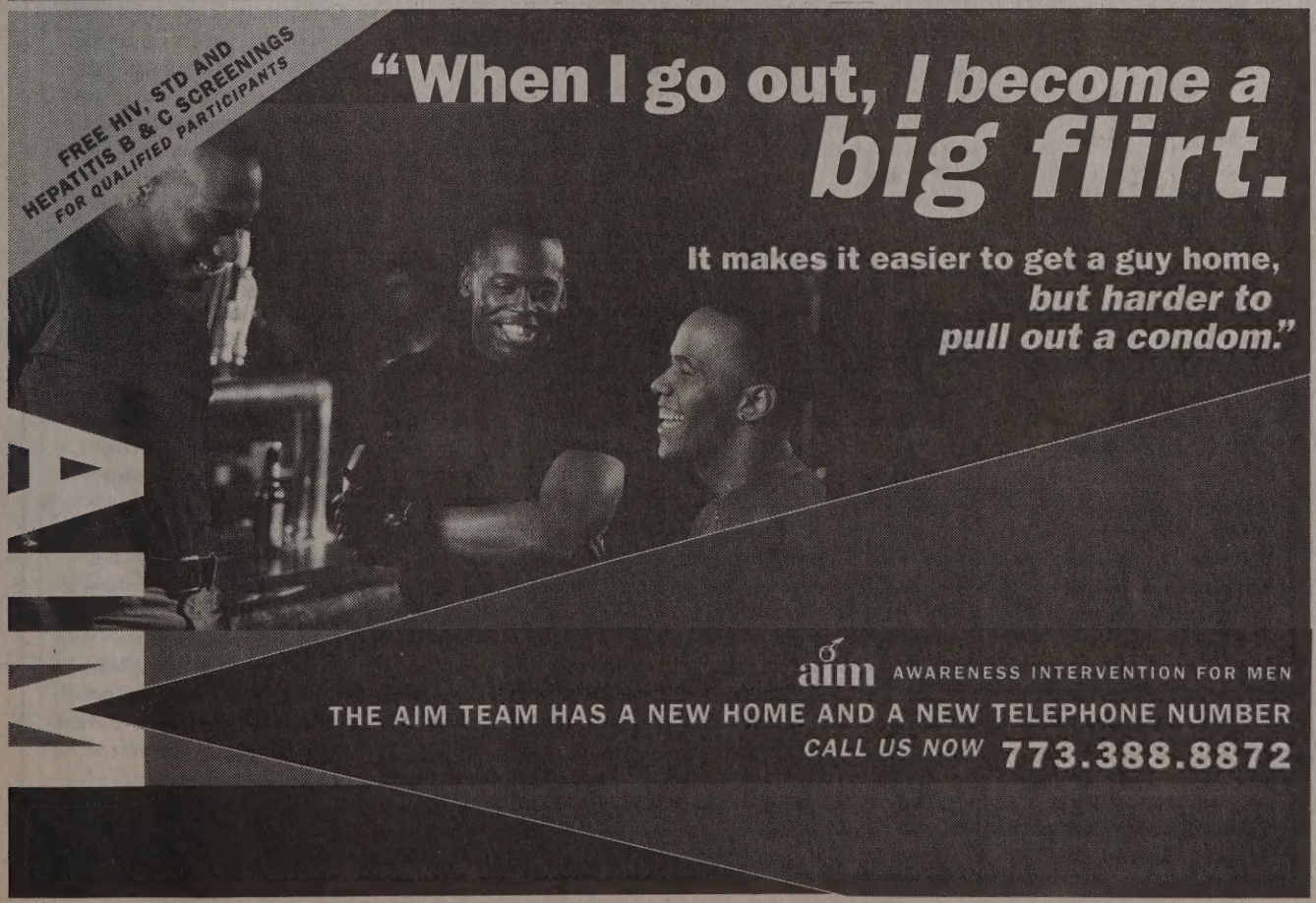
JD: Same-sex marriages rec-

ognized in other states [none yet] will not be recognized in Illinois under a law [Senate Bill 1773 sponsored by Sen. Peter Fitzgerald, R-Palatine] signed in May 1996 by Gov. Edgar. If you had been governor, would you have signed that law? Will you work for its repeal?

RB: [This question] touches on a very philosophical point with me, a personal point. I have made sure that there will be no discrimination against gays and lesbians, as a matter of fact I've amended statutes, sexual orientation preferences for hate crimes saying that you can't attack people and I've worked to pass laws for the interest of anti-discrimination. I've met with all of my gay friends and they know where I stand on this issue. We have discussed it and we have talked about it and they've sought to convince me, but guess what? They haven't quite been able to do it yet. I'm not there. And the reason why I'm not there as I've told them [gay friends] is that they don't have an answer for it either. If you take it [same-sex marriages] to its ultimate conclusion, it will then be the destruction of the species. So therefore, I am not there. The bill that would come to me I could not sign. Not that I don't support all [lesbian and gay] efforts, but when it comes to the sanctity of marriage, that to me under my culture and my beliefs ... is a philosophical difference. In our structure in society, when we look for the perpetuation of mankind, we look for the opposite sex. There was a reason for the creation of the opposite sex—for procreation. Various things have to happen when you get the opposite sex together some person may not be able to produce. But under the biological existence, the circumstances are that they [gays and lesbians] can't. But if you get two females together, you know that they cannot reproduce. You put two males together you know that they cannot reproduce. So given that as I see our societal structure, I see it [society] as having been created in this fashion some other societies and cultures are different as for the perpetuation of the species.

JD: Current statistics state that lesbians and gay men consist of about 10% of the population. Given that fact, how do you feel about [same-sex marriage]?

RB: That's fine. It could be 30% or 40% of the population. But when you're dealing with my personal, inner beliefs, and my gay friends have respected my views on this because they have parents the same way ... this is something that I'm not new at discussing. They've been trying to convince me [to support same-sex marriage] and some of them haven't been able to do it. Some of the white [lesbian and gays] have been non-supportive but some Black lesbians and gays [have been supportive]. Marc Loveless [from The Committee] and I have been through this and a couple of [my] white staff members knew that some [in the white lesbian and gay community] didn't support my task because it was racism. It had absolutely nothing to do with my personal belief in the sanctity of the homosexual marital relationship. I did not get that support from them [white lesbians and gays] anyway ... they have not supported my candidacy [while] other candidates didn't believe in the marital situation either. It was a race question. To my Black gay and lesbian brothers and sisters, they're dealing with my inner beliefs. And my belief is that I will protect every right that you have and I will go to death with you. But I don't think that we can take it to that level of marriage. If the two [lesbians or gay men] want to get married, live together that is their decision. But don't ask the societal structure to sanction that [marriage].
It would be like the common-law arrangement, and a lot of heterosexuals are in common-law arrangements, there's some protection that [heterosexuals] get under that [arrangement]. Now in the same-sex arrange-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ment, I don't want to go down that path because it's a path of no return. If you start down that [road], generations from now, what will happen to our species? If there's a law [for same-sex marriage] I will not support it.

JD: What will you do to stop violence against lesbian and gay people?

RB: If someone attacks [lesbians and gays] because you are lesbian or gay, they ought to have an enhanced penalty because they have no right to interfere with whatever you want to be ... it your right. I'm not somebody who's flippant about this [issue]. I've been in it, I understand it, I've changed and got educated [on lesbian and gay issues] and have become an advocate for violence against lesbians and gays. I will certainly speak out regarding any violence against any citizen anywhere in the state of Illinois.

JD: Do you favor increasing funds to pay for the new AIDS medications?

RB: I will support anything that will deal with the elimination of AIDS. Certainly. I've been out on AIDS Walks and I've hired an HIV-positive person on my staff. I think I'm on the right side of that issue.

JD: Do you support a bill to make discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation illegal in the state of Illinois?

RB: Absolutely.

JD: You've previously stated that you'd like to "address the growing moral decay and disrespect that we seem to have for our fellow human beings who we do not know." Do you consider lesbian and gay people moral people?

RB: Absolutely. It [morality] doesn't have anything to do with sexual orientation. What I'm speaking of is this: we're just having people attacking you because you're gay. That's a deterioration of our moral fabric; [citizens] should not attack lesbians and gays. If [citizens] are having problems, we should call a mixed town hall meeting where the governor is there, where you do a give and take. The gay and lesbian community will have the opportunity to present their views and what they're experiencing so people will know that [lesbians and gays] are human like everyone else. The fact that you choose another partner does not mean that you're not a good citizen. People ought to learn that—I know that because I've dealt with the [lesbian and gay] community. I know about Muslims because I've been to their mosques and worshiped with them. I know about Koreans because I've been to their country and visited with them, ate at their table. I have sought to expand my mind. Those things that you know you tend to understand and respect. Those things that you don't know you tend to be ignorant and hateful towards. So, we need to bring people together and that's what, as governor, I intend to do. ... Everybody should have the same opportunity to pursue his/her goals without obstruction; that's my utopia. If you're gay, Black and disabled, you should be able to do anything that you want to do this side of the law. But you should not be hampered in any way.

▼▼▼▼

Next month: Burris speaks on education, transportation, and more issues.

Other politicians who have endorsed Burris include State Representatives and State Senators Rickey Hendon, Connie Howard, Lou Jones and Howard Kenner; Cook County Commissioners Jerry Butler and Bobbie Steele; Congressman Danny Davis; and Ald. Virgil Jones.

The Burris Campaign Headquarters is at 180 North LaSalle, Suite 1212. Call (312) 782-VOTE [8683].

How I See It

Celebrating Kwanzaa Does Not Mean Giving Up Your Religious Beliefs

by C.C. Carter

My Father is a missionary, and my mother comes from that deep Baptist tradition. So when the idea of Kwanzaa was first presented to our family, (with Brooklyn, New Yorkers being the forerunners to head an all-out campaign for Blacks to conform) we were somewhat reluctant.

Christmas is a very serious religious experience for us, starting with a Christmas Eve ritual of church and the children's re-enactment of the Nativity, then the lighting of the Christmas Star, followed by a silent memorial to those who are less fortunate than us, then caroling.

So were these new Kwanzaa crusaders asking us to give up a family tradition and stop believing in the birth of Christ, (who wasn't really born on Christmas anyway).

My father just happened to have an assignment in Africa and made several inquiries while there. He came home with an authentic kinara, traditional goblet, red, black and green candles, and books for us to read as a family and study the correct way to acknowledge our cultural heritage. That was 15 years ago.

Today our family still enjoys the same spiritual tradition of celebrating Christmas and the following day we begin the cultural tradition of celebrating our heritage. We minimize our gift-giving on Christmas, saving them the for seven days afterwards when our family becomes very creative. We focus on family memorabilia (putting together scrapbooks), Black books, family togetherness presents, and we participate in social activism within our community. We light the appropriate candle in the morning and then proceed to live out the principle of the day. In the evening, we journal our experience of the day and share it with family members.

Our religious faith is still in tact, but our cultural lives are more enriched and our sense of family is more defined and valued because of it.

I have often heard and have had debates with people who insist that you cannot and should not do both. Although Dr. Karenga's idea was to give African-Americans an alternative method to celebrating the commercialism of Christmas, I'm sure that it was not his intention to impose a choice issue for those where Christianity is not simply how much I can get for Christmas.

Kwanzaa is not meant to be a spiritual holiday but instead a cultural one. This is why I have so many friends who are Muslim, Black, Jewish, and various other religious faiths, who celebrate their spiritual holidays, but on Dec. 26th we all celebrate ourselves. What's bothering me now is how commercialized Kwanzaa has become; mainstream society markets to us cards and ornaments, cuffis and african garb, when the main purpose of Kwanzaa was to be creative with your gift-giving. Decorations made, cards designed, and presents not imposing financial burdens.

If you want to celebrate Kwanzaa the correct way with its intentions, read the book by Dr. Karenga Maulana. Know what it is that you are celebrating and why, before you adopt its practices.

I could be wrong, but that's how I see it.

Up On It

Music reviews by J.

Will Downing — *Invitation Only* (Mercury)

I wanted so much to like this release (Will's sixth). Although Downing is one of my favorite male vocalists, I've only liked every other release from the jazz/R&B crooner. Unfortunately, *Invitation Only* is not one of the "every others." Downing begins the set with "Island," a stock "smooth jazz" ditty. But wait, there's more quiet storm where that came from (including an uninspired cover of Phyllis Hyman's "I Don't Want To Lose You"). Although, not as ill-conceived as *Love's the Place to Be*, it's not as appealing as *A Dream Fulfilled*, either (this inconsistency, I believe, contributes to his stunted fan base). I'm sure to like his next one, though.

Izit — *Imaginary Man* (Countdown/ULG)

For some reason, this British band's CD's aren't being released domestically until years after they've been recorded. Luckily, like their first release (*The Whole Affair*), Izit's collection of delicately challenging (acid) jazz arrangements endure the test of time. On this belated sophomore release, Nicola (who's voice recalls Corinne Drewery of Swing Out Sister), cleverly styles each song (most notably "Just A Matter Of Time," "Oasis" and "Elijah's Blue") creating layers of vocals in relaxing jazz-tinged settings. The most surprising track on this near-flawless release is a refreshing cover of the Roberta Flack classic "Feel Like Makin' Love," which nods to the original but innovates. Unfortunately, Izit's releases are hard to find, so I suggest you act fast.

Salt n' Pepa — *Brand New* (London/Red Ant)

After a couple of label changes, dumping their longtime producer Hurby "Love Bug" Azor and four years, Salt n' Pepa emerge with a full-length release completely written and produced by the female rap trio. The result is rap which stands out from the hip hop world dominated by Sean "Puff Daddy" Combs, Missy Elliott and Timbaland. But that's not necessarily a good thing. It takes a while for *Brand New* to warm up, and warm is about as good as it gets. "Knock Knock" and "Gitty Up," are fairly catchy and "Friends" has a good beat, but I'm grasping. In short, nothing is as jumpy as the first single, "R U Ready" (which lacks the immediate charm of past hits like "Shoop") Sure, their veteran rap status allows them to record "Imagine" (which isn't bad) with Sheryl Crow, but why? Give me the old Salt n' Pepa any day.

Spice Girls — *Spiceworld* (Virgin)

The Spice Girls (poised for further world domination with a movie, "action" figures and a bunch of other consumer crap) delivers their sophomore release just in time for Christmas. While most were cringing to the irritatingly, infectious "Wannabe," they snoozed on an excellent collection of pop/soul songs from their debut. This time out, the fare is a bit lighter (more pop, less soul). However, "Never Give Up On The Good Times" incorporates so many different '80s soul/dance elements, it transforms into an original. Other standouts include "Denying," "Saturday Night Divas" and "Viva Forever." But try listening to "Move Over" ("generation next, generation next") without thinking of Pepsi. Sure, they can't sing, but Janet has become an icon with minimal vocal talent. Why should she be the only one?

"Firm Biz" Video: *From the moment Foxy Brown begins rolling around with dollar bills taped to her breasts, this video carves a new video niche. Dawn Robinson left EnVogue for this?*

Music Notes

Music Harry Tyner, Jr.

Vanessa Williams — *Next* (Mercury)

Bursting onto the scene in 1988 with *The Right Stuff*, inviting us with open arms into *The Comfort Zone*, and remembering *The Sweetest Days*, the multitalented singer, dancer and actress returns with her fourth album, *Next*.

Juggling an extraneous career of movie roles such as *Eraser, Hoodlum,* and *Soul Food*, as well as a devoted mother, Ms. Williams gives us an ear full of vocal maturity.

This album is filled with tender melodies, "And If I Ever," and "Start Again," sultry hip-hop of "Surrender" and the first single release, "Happiness," written and produced by Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis.

Giving us such a spectacular performance throughout her career, just what does Ms. Williams have for us ... next?

Future Sound Of Paris (Polygram)

For those of you who want a laid back mix of disco, funk, house and trip-hop to groove to, this is one to add to your collection. Fourteen superb tracks to listen to while cleaning the house or entertaining friends.

From the melodic opening of "Away" by Nature to the disco loops of "Disco 2000 Selector" by Bob Sinclair, this CD is guaranteed to move you. My personal picks are "Rock It Tonight," a reggae/acid jazz bopper, "Bill Collector," using the Gwen Guthrie sample loop and " Just About Right."

Club 69 — *Style* (Twisted America)

1995 brought forth austailian producer Peter Rauhofer's debut *Adults Only*, a mix of sex- crazed dance club tracks. Two years later he returns in the same tradition with *Style*, showcasing the dynamic vocals of Suzanne Palmer and Kim Cooper.

This album takes a different turn with its theme, as with the first, each song was immersed in every sense of the word sex. The focus here is on the nightlife scene in general. The title track attacks that from the fashion sense, "glamour can be bought, style, this must be taught," all throughout the CD. Taking an in-depth look into the attitude we have when we hit the clubs, from head to toe.

"I Look Good" and "Drama" are no surprise to mention, but the cover of '80s classic, "Muscles," by Suzanne Palmer a la Ms. Ross, does not evern come close to the original, why did you bother? Other highlights on the album include "Twisted," "Alright" and the remix of "Always Unique."

If you enjoyed the first album, *Style* simply picks up where the first left off. So if you want drama, you will want this!

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Million Woman March Memories

By Jeanine Kamilah Valrie (daughter of Ardis Mc Bell)

Either hundreds of thousands or up to two million Black women (depending on the source) experienced the Million Woman March in Philadelphia Oct. 25. Speakers included U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters and Winnie Mandela. Many expressed a great feeling of sisterhood.

When walking up to the park, vendors conversed among one another while I saw children dancing to the distant drum beats. My first thought: "I could feel the sincere love in the atmosphere."

In the park there was nothing but crowds. Women, children and a few men marched past city hall and the cracked liberty bell and rallied in support of the Million Woman March Platform Issues. I spotted a sister standing on a cooler and I asked her could I step up and get a picture of the crowd. When I stood up and turned I almost cried. For miles nothing but beauty and blackness. I could hear the wails of a 12-year-old singing, as it brought tears to my eyes. Not of sadness, but of pride. I was proud to be amongst strength and proud that maybe, finally, we can resurrect the black family(MMM-1995, MWM-1997).

The only problem stopping us is all the sisters didn't feel it. They felt that the purpose was to outdo the brothers or spend the entire march criticizing everyone that walked by. One negative sister also felt that the money raised for the march could be put to better use such as child care or preschool for those mothers unable to work. It hurts to see how much more sisters need to progress.

Just as I thought that everyone had lost sight of the purpose, a few sisters I traveled with talked about our plans for the future. "I plan to unite with sisters permanently," said Annette Carr, a freshman at Fisk University. As a group we decided to get together and set up a platform dealing with strengthening ourselves and our community. "We as women need to get ourselves together. I see this (Million Woman March) as a way to bring Black minds together. From there we can take ideas home and build," stated Martina Davis, a transfer at Fisk University. We also decided to take all this input and educate our campus, as well as the surrounding communities.

Our encouragement and our desire to help build and uplift an entire race showed much determination and love amongst ourselves. I just knew I had to find at least one other sister feeling the effects of the march like I was. Instead of finding one, I found four. "The march was wonderful. It was great to see Black women of all ages and sizes. All sisters together—blood sisters, "said Claudine Conaway.

Desired Life

by nina *(Jeanine Valrie)*
(To the ones who missed the MWM—
Million Woman March)
The mood is set
ylang-ylang and frakenscences
sandalwood incense burning under
expo tents
stomping like soldiers
among the masses
natural like ivory earplugs and
woven head baskets
drummed beats creating feet
fires-in afrikan garb
like my urban-street attire
seaful of Queens
I'm in the center of my black heaven
death would be desired
if everyday was like this setting
Hold my hand black baby
Don't want you lost
with you my existence
will pay the cost
No knowledge to spread
or diseased wisdom to eat
Like communion bread
I protect you back
and feel antrioventricular beats
Blood sisters united
to build black families
monthly checks and midnight fucks
don't make you a man to me
A lovers support like my ebony staff
we mated then created a better half
sisters came to learn
to use our melanin tool
Not just to shake hips
and thick lips us to attract fools
Can't wait to see if shit really change
like wardrobes change clothes
and whites lay low
asking Elohim for forgiveness
of their deadly blows
cost the life of queens old
and retired
if and only if
death was desired

"Yes, the idea of unity was exemplified. It was excellent," stated Josephine Senior, "I remember when I dropped my pin and a young brother picked it up and said, 'sister you dropped your pin. This is your day,'" said Ms. Conaway. "Exactly. There was no competition. This is our time of getting together by their side (brother). The marches (MMM-1995, MWM-1997) raised the consciousness of both (men and women)."

These sisters are correct. Now that we know what to do we must join forces as a people and create a stronger future. A Black millennium. A century of the Black family.

When I asked the ladies for a final thought, Margie Ellis said, "Everyone was very polite." Enough said.

Million Woman March Platform Issues

Following are the 12 platform issues released by organizers of the Million Woman March.

For more information on weekly Chicago meetings related to the Million Woman March, call (773) 643-9719.

1) National support for Rep. Maxine Waters in the efforts to effectively bring about a probe into the CIA's participation and its relationship to the influx of drugs into the African-American community.

2) The development and completion of Black independent schools with a 21st century focus from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade

3) The formation of progressive mechanisms that will qualitatively address the development and advancement of Black women upon leaving the penal system

4) The development of health facilities that can offer preventive and therapeutic treatment and a major emphasis on alternative and traditional medicines

5) The formation of Rites of Passage centers of academics which provide continual programming in addition to assigned enrollment periods

6) The further development of Black women who are or wish to become professionals, entrepreneurs and/or politicians

7) The further development of mechanisms that will assist Black women who are in transitional experiences which will facilitate them more effectively and progressively

8) The examination of Human Rights violations of Africans in the Americas and their effects.

Turn to next page

9) The development of programming that will bring about a sincere and respectful environment that will foster the necessary interaction with our youth

10) The formation of progressive mechanisms that will combat homelessness and the numerous circumstances that contribute to the plight of sisters/brothers who are without shelter

11) The development of mechanisms to ensure that the gentrification of our neighborhoods as it relates to public and private housing ceases.

12) The reclaiming of our elders rights who are entitled to the development of appropriate programs and supportive systems that will ensure that their quality of life is maintained enhanced and preserved

Gathering

by M. Eliza Hamilton

Whenever women come together, a place of power is created. In the presence of that kind of creative, divine power, one must remain speechless or cry. Friday morning, Oct. 24, 1997, at 2 p.m., we—my partner Deboara A. Donald, our friend Laurie Holland, and myself—knew that our Grandmothers—Eliza, Oleavia, Sojourner, and especially Harriet—were crying.

The rain was unrelenting. With water against us everywhere, we were reminded of the journey our Grandmothers made without choice, the passage that tore them from one continent and then scattered them across another. We thought: How happy Harriet must be to see us, descendants of Africans she helped free.

We were glad to have 16 hours in the car to talk to one another. We were ever mindful of the fact that the three-month journey from coast to coast meant silence, isolation, pain, fear.

We did not dare weep. In our lifetimes, no amount of mourning would allow us to reconcile what had brought us here in the first place. It seemed that we were drawn to this historic moment to be witness to the lives of millions of women of African descent. No one had been witness to the lives of our grandmothers.

Every opportunity we had we looked for signs that we were not alone. We found rainbow flags, t-shirts, bumper stickers, jewelry, and signs everywhere we looked. Strangers welcomed us to the city with their words, "Good Morning, Sister, it's nice to see you." Women stopped us in bathrooms to record our histories and, therefore, their own. They asked us to write and say our names so they could take them wherever they were going.

On Saturday, Oct. 25, 1997, the city of Philadelphia became an African and Caribbean village. For one day, and on the trip back, we witnessed our own lives and the lives of women who might have been family if not for the Atlantic Slave Trade. We came from all directions: Illinois, New York, California, Nigeria, Guyana, Senegal, and other places we only know in our souls.

Early Saturday morning, when the Yoruba priestess called for us to honor the Ancestors, we answered. Each time we shouted Aché!, you could feel the ground swell into our feet, reminding us that we are Daughters of Earth. Women born to create with our very being. The rain had stopped briefly as if the Grandmothers waited patiently to hear us call their names.

Late Saturday night, we were exhausted and not looking forward to another 16-hour drive. The rain had slowed to a drizzle. The Grandmothers were tired.

We had gathered together, reclaimed our power, and now set out to heal what we thought could not be healed.

The Grandmothers were pleased. On the way out, we blew our horn at the mountains just to let them know we were on our way home.

Aché.

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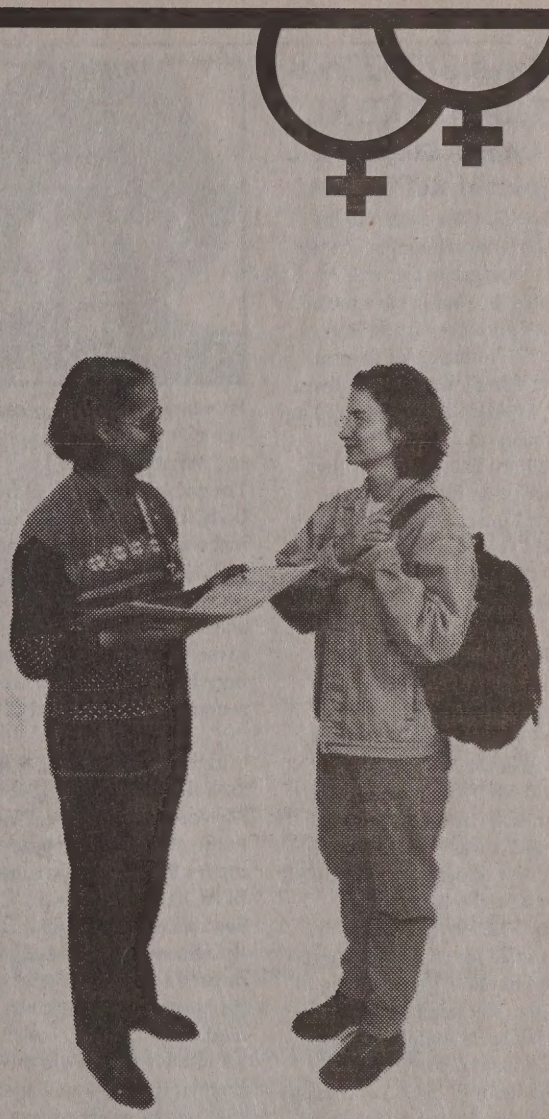

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TRANSLUCENT TRANSEXUAL

by Lynnell Stephanie L.

Journal Reflections

May 23, 1995: I went to the doctor (endocrinologist) today. After seeing him for over 3 months, he finally gave me a prescription for female hormones (Premarin & Provera). Good thing I am seeing a therapist, I needed a note saying I am in transition.

6:20pm: This is it. I got the prescription filled. I have to admit I'm scared. I know this is what I've always wanted, but now it's real. There is no turning back. I'll never forget this day.

Oct 3rd: I came out at work today. They didn't fire me. I wanted them to fire me so I could go on *Oprah* and make a fuss about it. He told me it would be OK as long as I don't wear skirts or dresses to work. He said it was because people wouldn't understand. I think I'll wear a skirt tomorrow.

April 12, 1996: I just got my 3rd denial for request of surgery from Humana. I was talking to Marsha, she said she's been appealing for awhile with her insurance company. When I called them (INS Co.) and asked why I was denied, the lady said because the Sex Reassignment Surgery isn't covered, and to file another appeal. She was so damn snotty. I wished I could of grabbed that bitch through the phone and kick her ass.

May 12: I saw Mom today at the hospital. She's really looking bad. They have her on Chemo Therapy. I can feel her pain. I think she's going to die. As I hugged and kissed her goodbye, I felt I was saying goodbye forever. She told me she loved me. When the nurse came in the room to give Mom her medication, she introduced me to the nurse as her daughter Lynnell. I kissed her again, and ran out the room before I started to cry. That was the first time she had ever called me her daughter.

Dec. 13: I got another "Services Denied" letter from

Humana. I think I'm going to just give up, and stop appealing. What's the use? I feel like I'm going to be stuck in this body forever. I'm really tired, I just want to die. Sometimes I feel death is my only escape. I told Dr._____ I want to die, and she told me I would never kill myself, that I am too strong. For once I wish she would take me serious. I'm really tired of fighting. I do want to die.

June 11, 1997: HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME. I can't believe I'm 34 years old. A lot has changed in the past year. I've been writing for this magazine called BLACKLINES since last September. It feels great writing, doing something I've always dreamed of doing. I miss Mom. It's been over a year since she died. I feel cheated. I wish she could have been there the first time I brought a bra, I wish she was here now. Tanya (my sister) said Mom was in her bedroom last night, she said she felt her. I got upset and hung up on her. Mom never comes to visit me. But ever time I think of her I do feel her presence. Even now writing about her, I can feel her with me.

Oct 28: Almost every transsexual I know has had or are about to have the sex reassignment surgery. I was talking to someone, and they said it will happen when it's time. I guess so, I just wish the time was now, but $10.000 isn't easy to come by. Maybe I'll be a famous Writer/Author/Actress one day and I'll have more than enough money to pay for my surgery. Which reminds me, I have to pay my cable bill.

Happily Ever After

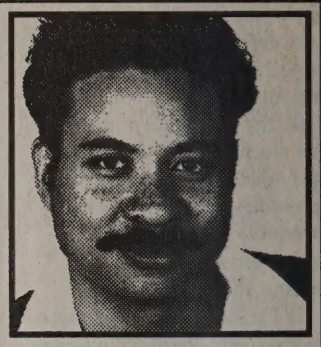
by Jean Pierre Campbell

A few weeks ago, I felt compelled to watch Disney's latest multicultural musical, *Cinderella*—a racial refashioning of the fairy tale where Black girl meets Asian boy prince, the son of interracial royalty (i.e., a Black mother and a white father). I admit that part of me watched it with giddy fascination, remembering my own childhood innocence when I, too, dreamed of a shining, Black princess and exquisite glass slippers, both of which I would gladly have killed for. But more importantly, I watched because I wanted to witness a world conceived in multicultural perfection—a world where the idea of race didn't create a painful, polarizing reality, because race didn't matter.

Unfortunately, besides being terribly bored (maybe I'm too jaded for fairy tales), I didn't really like the new world created by Disney, not musically. Particularly, the film's musical scores—sung by R&B pop singer Brandi as Cinderella and the prince—were too soft and genteel, strangely reminiscent of the hokey, on-screen love songs by Nelson Eddie and Jeanette MacDonald from early black and white "talkies."

Now I'm not saying that Disney needed to employ Ashford and Simpson, but really, how could the film have all those people of color and still come up short on flava?

Because Black culture has had a tremendous impact on American music, to create a modern *Cinderella* that ignores that history when the production itself is supposed to be a cinematic celebration of society's ability to transform itself through a multicultural prism, is a bit eurocentric. Further, seeing Brandi as Cinderella, exquisite in debutante ballgown, waltzing with the prince, was reminiscent of



early American mimicry of highly stylized European manners.

What makes these observations (or rantings) noteworthy is the nation's current conservative mood concerning race: that it is OK to be Black, Native American, or Latino as long as you don't act like it.

Conservatives are saying that the ruin of this country will be due to obsessive, ethnocentric groups responsible for the "balkanization" of America, the creation of pockets of culture unrelated (meaning "foreign") to the mainstream—the white mainstream.

At root, *Cinderella*, though visually stunning, is a fine example of multiculturalism in its least acceptable (and most popular) form, where the simple insertion of nonwhite faces into an otherwise white play is passed off as visionary race politics, designed to show the emptiness of racial concepts.

Ultimately, Cinderella suggests that one's race has no direct relationship to culture, as if people of color have no history separate from white America, one deserving of recognition and value.

Of course, one can say, as I've been told repeatedly, "It's only a fairy take, stupid!" However, if everything in American culture, from religious ceremonies and family entertainment to news coverage and presidential campaigns, carries the same message, then fairy tales become very political, indeed.

Jean Pierre also writes regular for NIGHTLINES.

What's The "411"

with Preston L. Shumaker

Smart Sex Advice with an attitude!

Two new Black Men's Groups in Chicagoland

Hi all. I know it's been a while since my last article but I think you'll understand after my explanation. I'm still very much involved in the struggle regarding reducing HIV infection among African-Americans, specifically men. One thing that I have learned is that you have to be willing to take another approach in spreading the message besides writing. You must act! Although I have worked in HIV prevention and treatment services for over nine years, I still see just as many brothers becoming infected. This greatly frustrates me, especially after many hours of talking with people in clubs, on the street, and in agencies about protecting themselves. As a result, the current national trends reveal that HIV infection among African-American men has not dropped as significantly as white men in the 25-44 year age group.

However, there are many reasons that this trend is occurring. One, sometimes we as gay brothers have so many other responsibilities going on in our lives. Sometimes it's difficult to stay afloat, thus no money for protection. Two, there is a bombardment of other problems in our community, HIV included, that trying to address them all can become overwhelming. And three, when some of us experience other problems in our lives like: "Hell, nah I know you ain't givin' up the boots to my homeboy..." or "Oh, no she didn't! I know your mama didn't call you a Big, Black Faggot..." or "My boss had the audacity to call me a boy today ... she gets on my last nerve!" we don't know how to react.

In an overall effort to reduce further HIV infection and reinfection, I founded two new discussion groups for African-Americans in the Chicagoland area: **Imani Umoja (I.U.)** on Chicago's South Side and **Harambe Jahard (H.J.)** in Oak Park. Both are unique in the fact that they address African-American male issues utilizing Maslow's hierarchy of needs and offer a comprehensive look at our total selves. For example, it may be difficult to address HIV issues if one is hungry, or doesn't know how to have an open discussion with a partner. In addition, the groups will focus on issues such as self-esteem, family—including children, education, spirituality, job, recreation, relationships, and friendships.

Imani Umoja, Swahili for faith in unity, and Harambe Jahard, Swahili for working together to do good, will serve as a way for Black gay men to give each other support, to network, and to discuss our lives, loves and brotherhood. H.J., a program of Suburban Health OUTreach (SHOut), began in September and people have responded quite favorably to it. The group is currently meeting at the Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association (OPALAGA) office.

Following closely on its footsteps, Imani Umoja is a program of Sinai Family Health Center. Sinai has had much experience in providing prevention service to the African-American Community—having run the Brother II Brother program for the past year and a half. I.U. will begin bimonthly, every first and third Tuesday starting Jan. 8. A kick-off party will be held on **Thursday, Dec. 18, 1997,** and all are welcome to attend. All Imani Umoja events will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Sinai Family Health Center's Grand Boulevard Clinic, 5401 S. Wentworth, in the Grand Boulevard Plaza. For both groups, parking is available and refreshments will be served.

For those who are curious about my credentials: I'm a former Men of All Colors Together (MACT-Chicago) president and currently serve on the National Association of Black and White Men Together board of directors. In addition, I have served as Request for Proposals (RFP) chairman for the HIV Prevention-Regional Implemental Groups (RIG), Region 8. This past year, the RFP committee allocated nearly $1 million in HIV prevention dollars to agencies in high-risk suburban Cook County communities. Recently, I have been elected to the Illinois HIV Prevention Community Planning Groups (PCGP). In addition, I have facilitated workshops for MACT-Chicago, NAB-WMT, and the Cook County Department of Public Health.

For more information on Imani Umoja, please call (773) 907-8993 or Harambe Jahard, call (708) 445-2584.

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The Color Triangle: A Taste of the Dialogue

by Robert Schultz

When Keith Smith reported for his small group to the larger body gathered at the Color Triangle town meeting held during September's Unity month, he remarked that there were no "quick fix(es)" to solving racism in the lesbigay community.

Recognizing that sustained work is needed, participants who attended the Color Triangle strongly recommended that other opportunities for dialogue be scheduled. Organizers of the Color Triangle heard this suggestion and have scheduled the next Color Triangle on Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m., at Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State, RSVP (773) 973-3999.

Some of the conversation that occurred at the first Color Triangle meeting was recorded and Mary Morten, Executive Director for the City Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, supplied BLACKLINES with transcripts of the small group discussions. Although it was impossible to identify each speaker from the transcripts, some of that dialogue is summarized here. In addition, the recommendations from the small groups have been summarized in writing.

While reading through the transcripts several themes emerge.

Coming Out is not the same for everyone: A South Asian stated, "For many of us, it's incredibly difficult to be out. When you talk about coming out, for a South Asian woman, you're talking about something that could be death. Coming out is not the same for everybody."

LBGT organizations and community leaders need to address racism: One participant asserted that people who are in positions of leadership need to take a more proactive stance on those issues. Organizations like Howard Brown, Horizons, and AIDS Walk can only be made better and stronger by having them realize that there is a very diverse community that they need to tap into. The speaker felt that in doing so lesbigay community organizations will be made "stronger and also heal our community."

Developing Diversity: EN LA VIDA writer Robert Castillo shared his personal pet peeve. When some organizations embark upon developing diversity the first thing they do is to ask a person of color to do the outreach and assume the responsibility for developing diversity instead of taking on that responsibility. "Who do they call on to do the outreach? People of color, which in a lot of instances leaves people off the hook. I personally find it offensive when people ask me to do the outreach because I may be Latino rather than them going in and maybe experiencing culture shock, maybe experiencing something that may be different or uncomfortable."

More opportunity for interaction among different racial groups: Another participant who was multiracial said she had written an article called "All Dressed Up With No Place To Go." "The West Indian part of me wants to hear reggae. The Latin part of me wants to hear salsa. The other part of me wants to hear R and B, and the other part of me just wants to hear music, period, from the '70s or whatever," she said lamenting the fact there was no one place in lesbigay public spaces for such a smorgasbord of music. Others noted few bars on Halsted have non-white employees.

Our image to the world: Many people spoke of the need to have more public representations of lesbigay/trans people of color as spokespeople for the community. Others suggested the Pride Parade should not be owned by white men who most typically are associated with Boys Town.

The diversity in the LBGT community: One speaker mused, "I think that in some ways our strength as a community emerging has given this sense of a monolith. Oh, yeah, let's go for gay marriage. Let's go for the right to be in the military and ignore some of the sort of issues (such as racism) we already are carrying on as a community."

Another participant said, "We need to challenge ourselves to step out of that comfort zone, to go and to look into communities: to go to the leather communities, the fetish communities, the S&M communities, the trans communities and see what's going on in there, where I can lend my support."

Solutions: "We all need to be working hard at speaking out: be it by phone calls, letters, calling media outlets, be it in the lesbigay/trans communities or outside. If we don't do it, who will? We need to build many more coalitions and develop allies particularly amongst people" was the challenge that another speaker suggested. He went on to say that Chicago may need a specifically anti-racist lesbigay/trans queer group like GLAAD (the national Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Racism) to do this work on an ongoing basis.

Yahimba Conference Report

by Elandria V. Henderson

What an incredible day. The highlight of October's Yahimba Conference was the keynote speech presented by sister Jackie Anderson.

What Jackie did was take a conference focused on "Celebrating Our Difference" and show us how those differences, whether respected or not, impact our nations, our societies, and our homes. Jackie explained the far-reaching dangers of merely focusing on reforming existing institutions, because that culminates in reinforcing the present social order. She continued to give us concrete examples of our differences and informed us why a revolution of value and revolutionary change, in the present social order, are necessary for there to be any change at all.

Jackie said that without change of this magnitude, our differences will continue to be problematic and we'll continue to consign them to the status of a problem in need of a solution. Jackie elaborates that our differences are not a problem and indeed, are not the problem.

The problem is that we are sorted out, separated and segregated based on gender, class, ability (both physical and mental), race, religion, age, health, size, and whether we are homophiles or heterosexuals. Our political and social institutions have educated us to perceive others in ways that are false to them and to ourselves. She further said that the problem is not that we might be different, but rather the ways in which we have chosen to respond to it.

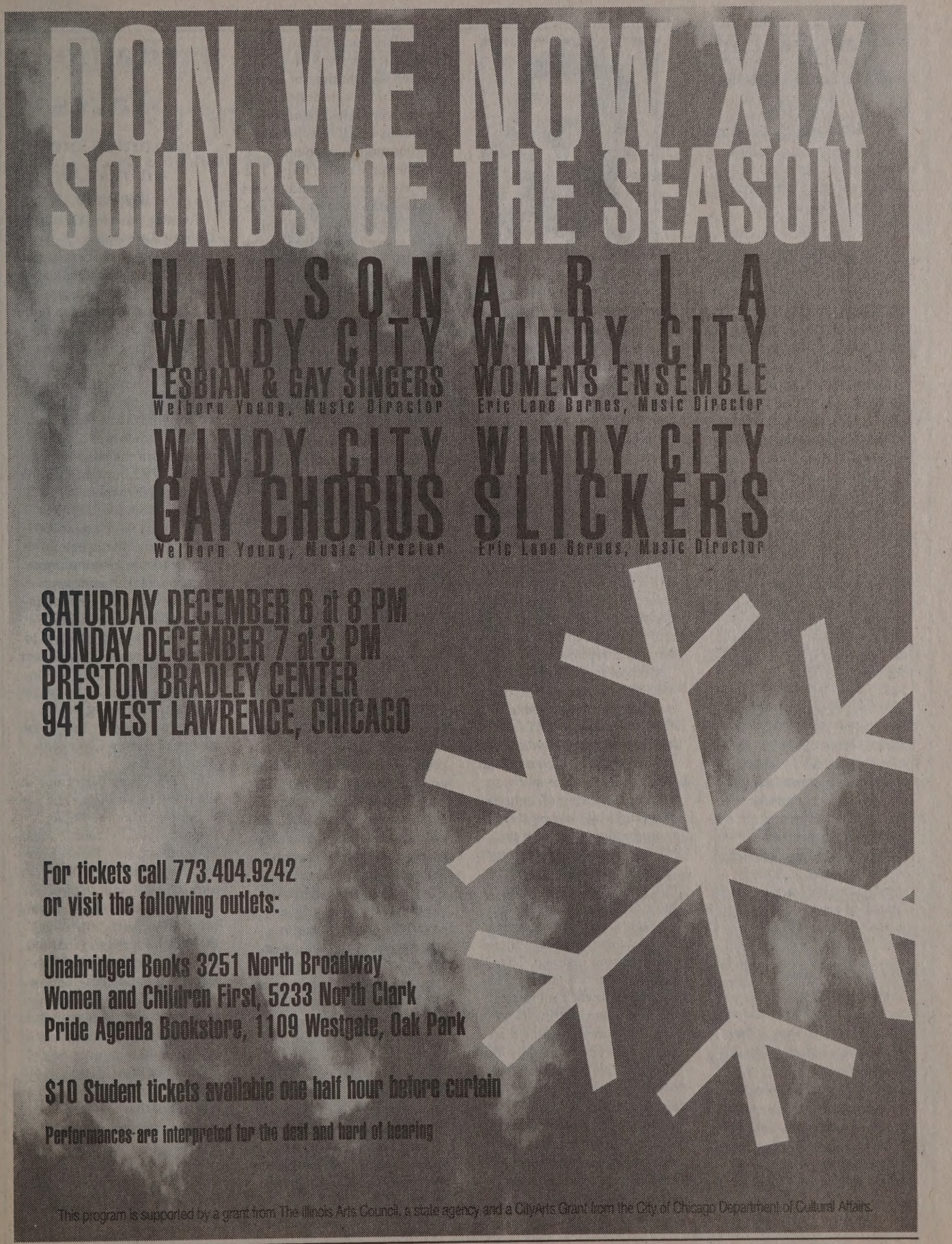
South Africa OK's lesbian insemination

South Africa has OK'd artificial insemination of single women, including lesbians.

The change to the Human Tissue Act, announced by Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma, resulted from a Human Rights Commission case filed by three unmarried women.

The old regulations restricted insemination to women who presented written permission from their husbands.

—Rex Wockner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Haunted: Life After Diagnosis

Part One

by Sanford E. Gaylord

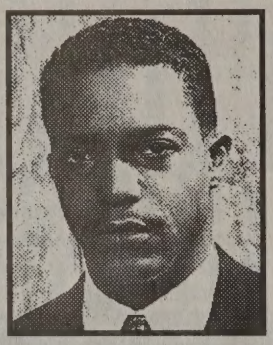
"I see you as my beautiful Sheman ... a combination of masculinity and femininity."
— Ronda Bedgood [from her poem "Sheman"]

It has been a couple of months since my last article, Haunted by Mr. Death. I would like to say thanks to my sisters, C.C. Carter and K.L. Glover, for their insight, direction and motivation. With their inspiration I found the courage to write about the battle of my life, my war with HIV disease. It is the most rewarding feeling to help other people after I help myself.

It's 10 a.m. on Aug. 1st; I have just sat down after signing in at my doctor's office at the Chicago Department of Public Health. I am full of anxiety that has been mounting for the past couple of weeks since my last visit. It was then that my doctor and I discussed treatment options (antivirals and protease inhibitors) due to the results of labwork on my blood—my latest CD4 count and Viral Load test. Those results had shown that my casualties of war in the battle of my immune system were mounting, and not in my favor. I decided to take another test, just to make sure, and am now waiting for the report.

Prior to my appointment with my doctor, I started researching the various medicines that are available for individuals living with HIV disease. After eight years, I felt blessed to have not had to take any, and truthfully the thought of having to take them was frightening.

In the 15 years of the HIV pandemic, medical technology has advanced to the point where it is now possible to determine the amount HIV virus present in the blood of a person living with the disease. Many of you may already be familiar with the T-cell count or CD4 count which shows basically how impaired the



immune system may be due to the virus. The Viral Load test is the newest way of measuring the progression of HIV disease. It does this by measuring the virons (particles of virus) per cubic millimeter of blood.

In my research, I discovered that the HIV virus reproduces rapidly. Billions of virus are made daily in an HIV-positive person. The immune system produces billions of CD4 cells to fight the virus. HIV counter-attacks, infecting and killing the CD4 cells. So, there really is a war in progress in the body when you're HIV positive. Over a period of time, an HIV-positive person's immune system cannot keep up with the virus as it replicates.

Medical technology has made many advances in the medicine that is available to slow this process. AZT falls into the category of antiviral medicine and Crixivan falls in the family of protease inhibitors. They both help the body fight by slowing the reproductive process of the HIV virus. Protease inhibitors, taken in combination with other antiviral medication, have been shown to take the virus to undetectable levels in blood, when a person adheres to the dosing regimen. The combination class therapy has proven to be the best tactical defense when battling HIV disease—more effective than using one type of therapy. For many people, following the combination therapy has allowed some individuals to leave hospice programs, return back to the work force, and start dreaming and setting goals again; making themselves into "old wine in new bottles."

Combination therapy, however, is not a cure. Men, women and children of all ages and racial backgrounds are still dying every day due to complications of AIDS, especially in communities of color, despite some media hype. The HIV virus can be found in various systems and tissues of the body. An undetectable Viral Load doesn't mean that you're not HIV positive. A person can still transmit the virus to other people while the level of HIV in their body is undetectable.

Even more alarming, for some, is that the therapy does not work. There are resistant strains of the HIV virus, partially because HIV mutates as rapidly as it reproduces and for some who don't stick with the strict dosing regimen it helps the virus mutate around the therapy they were given. Still others cannot tolerate the often degrading side effects that come with taking the various medicines that are available for combination class therapy.

It was in my doctor's office, this past August, that I discovered that my once nearly undetectable Viral Load *without medicine* had doubled and my CD4/T-cell count had dropped significantly. I felt "Haunted by Mr. Death" again, but I had prepared myself with research on the various medicine and combination therapies that are available for HIV-positive individuals and went *"power shopping"* at my favorite health food store just in case.

My doctor and I discussed treatment options and drew up a plan for my therapeutic armamentarium. I informed my biological family as well as my gay family of the decision that I made. I was surprised at how quickly the medicine arrived, a little less than two weeks.

They would sit on my dresser for a month, due to fear, the first thing that I saw daily before I decided to take them.

Part 2 for the January issue will focus on taking meds and the side effects that I personally went through.

Radio Waves

Minnie Carey on WVON

by Jano

Tuesday morning Oct. 28, the Clifford Kelly show, on WVON, was full of excitement with callers eager to talk about that weekend's events; mainly the Million Women March. But before that discussion could get off of the ground, Anna Hewing called to report on the Willie Lynch meeting which was held at South Suburban College that same Saturday.

Willie Lynch was a slave owner from the West Indies and, in 1712, brought information to slave owners in Virginia, on how to control their slaves for the next 300 years. The Willie Lynch meeting that Anna Hewing organized was for the purpose of creating dialogue on breaking that cycle put into place hundreds of years ago and to help create unity among Black people.

Hewing talked about the success of that meeting, which was punctuated by the performance of former Chicagoan Minnie Carey.

In 1995, Carey performed at the party in tribute to The Sons of Sappho from her book, *Forgotten, A Collection Of Poems*, by Minnie Carey. Before moving, Carey had been very vocal and active in both the lesbian and African-American communities. Her poetry articulates the racial oppression that has become a sleeping pill for a large population of Americans.

"The Willie Lynch Meetings was the perfect opportunity to incorporate what I have been trying to do with my poetry," Carey told BLACKLINES. "I felt inspired to write more stuff as a result of that meeting."

Anna Hewing was very excited by Carey's poetry and told Clifford Kelly and the WVON audience that, indeed, she would be invited back to perform again.

History Through Storytelling

by Kathleen Rose Winter

In his book, *What's Going On: Personal Essays*, Nathan McCall, in the chapter entitled "Airing Dirty Laundry," talks about the Black Community and its unwillingness to "air" negative issues about our community. He says that Black folks "... have spent a good part of the second half of this century dogging some of their best and most prolific writers when it comes to this business of exposing various aspects of black reality." He continues saying "... it may be taking a creative toll, affecting the literary judgement and decisions of black writers and forcing them to second guess themselves."

Even though I am a long way from being a prolific writer, I still hope to one day be a significant Black writer. At 41 years old and being professionally published for only two years, I am virtually an innocent to the world of publishing. (Not writing—I have been writing for decades. I just would not let anyone read it.)

My writing is important to me. I write to tell a story. But I write to give information—to let someone know that they are not alone—to make people think and discuss, and possibly to act. When I write, I take something very personal and give it to the world. It is like weeping, bleeding, laughing, and remembering, in black and white print, for everyone to see.

In BLACKLINES, I tell stories of Black life. When I am published, I am given some restrictions. Every word may not be important to a publisher but to me, I need to know that what I submit will not be butchered to the extend that my story is significantly altered. With present day BLACKLINES, I have been

tremendously fortunate. I am allowed to write with my journalistic and creative integrity intact. I can tell my story and not sweat and stress about what will be published. I can be somewhat confident that the meaning of my piece will not be edited to the extent, that the message of what I submit, will change in it's actual publication.

By now you folks are probably wondering "what is her point?" This column is "History Through Storytelling" and I am going to tell you a story concerning what happened to me regarding one of the most influential Black newspapers in the country. This incident has taken a toll on my creativity and may have affected my literary judgement. The newspaper in this incident is more that 100 years old. It encouraged and facilitated the migration of our ancestors from the south of the USA, to the industrialized north. This publication has prided itself on publishing the truth—on banishing prejudice forever from our world. This is a newspaper I began reading when I was four years old. Recently, this newspaper gave me the opportunity to write a "perspective" about Black, Lesbian, Gay, and Transgendered issues. I was told that this "perspective" may be one that could happen monthly. Well I think this "little story here" might hurt that possibility.

I spent at least two weeks trying to write the perfect perspective that would tell our story, tell the truth, and yet be sensitive to the Black community in general. I spent days editing a four-page article to two-and-one-fourth pages. I was guaranteed that with the appropriate amount of pages submitted, my piece would not be edited. There was concern that a heterosexual publication would selectively edit my piece and thus lessen its impact or impart the wrong message. I was assured many times that this would not happen. I was told that as long as I submitted two-and one-fourth pages, my piece would be published as is.

Well that did not happen. In the piece I submitted, I said, "The Ten Commandments do not mention homosexuality. Jesus never said anything about homosexuals. ... He said: Love God, Love your neighbor, and do not judge others." Can you guess what was edited out? Yes, all of that was edited out. I was not the person directly communicating with the newspaper, so I felt it was inappropriate for me to respond. My head was exploding, yet I kept calm enough to allow the person who arranged all of this to communicate with the newspaper. After she talked with the editor, he "honestly could not remember who edited the piece." He was sure that the editing was not selective, yet he added that the Black community is sensitive regarding issues of religion and the Bible.

This newspaper will print the lies and hate spewed by ministers in our community, in the name of God, in the name of Jesus, yet refuse to print the truth that I wrote about. The whole article was about how lies regarding religious interpretations were allowed to skew the Black community's ideas about family values, to the extent that we murder our own people, in the name of God and in the name of Jesus. My piece was bastardized and the whole meaning and the message were lost.

I may never write for them again, not by my choice but because of what they will print. This "story" may make some folks angry, but it will never surpass the anger I feel about the chicanery I experienced with this incident. Now I am told to "write a nice letter to the editor." I can do that but I will not. I can see them printing only the positives in that letter and not the truth.

In the back of my mind will always lie a file marked "Don't you trust those white folks. ... They always walk away being white." Yet I trust a white publisher (of a two-year-old publication) with a Black staff to publish my work, more than a Black publisher (of a 100-year-old publication) with a Black staff. I'm sorry to "air" this dirty laundry but my heart hurts and my soul has been paled. My goal is the truth and to still tell a story. McCall sums it up best by saying, "...we need black writers to air our dirty laundry. We also need for those writers to resist pressure to sugarcoat black reality. Lord knows we need that for all our own sakes."

Literary Exchange annual potluck

The Literary Exchange's annual potluck sharing is set for Sunday, Dec. 7, 3-7 p.m. on the South Side. Call (773) 509-6881 for details.

This month's book discussion is Lisa Moore's ***does your mama know,*** with readings by **Tiffani Frazier** and **Sheree Slaughter,** who have essays in the book. There will also be special readings by **C.C. Carter, Vernita Gray, Donna Rose,** and **A Real Read.**

Bring a dish to share, and their will be a silent auction. Share your coming-out story.

PERSONALS

Personals

How to place an ad:

- The first 20 words are free; each additional word is 25¢. Ads run 2 Months. ADS ARE FOR ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. Groups wishing to place ads in personals can do so at CLASSIFIED rates ($10/30 words for 1 month, 3 months $27).
- In addition to your ad, send your name, address, home phone & signature.
- You will be assigned a free voice-mailbox number, unless you specify you do not want one. You can record a voice-mail message for free; retrieving messages costs $1.49 per minute. Upon receipt of your ad, we will send your voice-mailbox code and info on how to use the system.
- You can rent BLACKLINES mailbox/$6 per month, if you wish to have written responses forwarded to you; we send them out once a week. (If you have your own PO Box, voice mail #, or beeper #, we request **$5 per 2 months.** We DO NOT accept ads with home address/phone)
- Deadline is 10th of each month for next BLACKlines. You can also run in Nightlines and Outlines.

How to respond to an ad:

- If an ad ends with an NL/V #, you can reply by mail or by phone to that ad (some ads will list an address + a voice-mail # in parentheses—either send your reply to the address as it appears or reply by voice-mail).
- If ad ends with NL BOX #, you can *only* reply by mail. If it ends with Voice #, you can *only* reply by phone (written replies will not be forwarded).
- To respond in writing, send letter to the NL/V # or NL BOX # specified at the end of the ad, c/o **BLACKLINES, 1115 W. Belmont, 2-D, Chgo, IL 60657.** Respond to all others ads as specified at the end of the ad.
- To leave a voice-mail message ($1.49/min.), use *touchtone* phone to call **1-900-454-0101.** Punch 1 & 5-digit NL/V # or NL Voice # to respond to that ad — or punch 2 to listen to people's voice-mail messages.

(773) 871-7610 ***(Tuesays 9-5 only)***

Ad should read _____

Please also run ad in (no extra money): ❒ Outlines ❒ Nightlines ❒ En La Vida

FREE voice-mail number (phone responses only)! ❒ *I Do NOT want voice box #*

PERSONALS for ONE-ON-ONE MATCHES. ***Classified rates*** ($10 for 1 month, 3 months $27).

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION— MUST BE FILLED OUT:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Cost of the ad:

1st 20 words, 2 months	FREE
Additional words 25¢ ea.	$_____
MailBox # ($6 per month)	$_____
Total Amount Enclosed:	$_____

Send to: BLACKlines/Outlines, 1115 W. Belmont, Suite 2-D, Chicago, IL 60657

MEN

ISO = In Search Of

WE NO LONGER ACCEPT & PRINT ADS WITH HOME PHONE NUMBERS OR ADDRESSES.

Chicago Police vice officers sometimes respond to suspect ads in an effort to uncover illegal activity. Please note: sex-for-money agreements (even if no sex occurs) are illegal.

Experience heaven on earth, be touched from head to toe. Why wait for the elusive heaven? GWM, swimmer's build, looking for friend to exchange body massage. Finally be in touch with yourself. **Write PO Box 14121 Chicago, IL 60614-0121** *(2)*

I am a Top GBM 50 yr 5'11 1/2" ISO GBM who wants a handsome lover. I like the movies, theater, dining out, etc. Must be straight acting masculine enjoy staying home. No bars, no games, HIV-, no drugs. 30-50 employed. Letter and photo, please. **NLBox261** (3)

Attractive BM Top straightacting 5'9" 150# 30yr discreet hard body, love sex. Seeks slim boyish guys under 35yrs (any race). Lee, **pager (312) 216-9101** *(2).*

GWM, top, 40s, 6', 170# with thick russet bush looking for GBM, GHM, GWM bottom for friendship. Send recent snapshot. **NLBox255** *(1)*

One hundred percent bottom, having a party 1-12-97, downtown hotel. Me A/F, you A/G. Clean, HIV- UB2. Call for details. **NLBox/Voice 52303** *(12)*

Big attractive 300# BM Teddy ISO big affectionate masculine sumo type for a serious relationship. (Big hands/Bubble booty+.)**VOICE52301***(11)*

Experience heaven on earth, be touched from head to toe. Why wait for the elusive heaven? GWM, swimmer's build, looking for friend to exchange body massage. Finally be in touch with yourself. Write **PO Box 14121 Chicago, IL 60614-0121** *(11)*

GWM 40s 225# seeks Latino for friendship, dating, any age, likes movies, dining, talks. **NLBox249** *(12)*

BGM 6'3", 205 masculine oral bottom seeks masculine non-fat BGM for steamy action **PO Box 87325, Chicago, IL 60680** *(11)*

Love and romance, endless passionate nights, unforgettable moments together and more. Nice looking Mexican 25, 6, 150, serious, mature, responsible acting straight, looking for tall slim black guy 20-30 to share dreams, love and fun, no games please, photo-phone to get mine. Can we have a chance? You will not be disappointed. **NLBox245** *(11)*

Starved for Affection? BiWM, 39, 6'1", 180, handsome, athletic, touch oriented Lincoln Park yuppie; loves erotic massage, exotic women, occasional man-to-man encounters, seeks slender, well-endowed oral enthusiast for erotic massage exchange. Photo appreciated. **NLBox241** *(11)*

WOMEN

ISO = In Search Of

You're ISO working professional/independent/sensitive/considerate/affectionate/attractive/single women beautiful inside and out. Join the Network. Tiffany (708) 686-7329. NLBox998 *(2)*

The love you deserve, someone special seeks good woman. GBF seeks easygoing lesbian 30 or over, 5'-5'5", 130-190#, who is honest caring affectionate, sensuous, passionate, friend and lover. Come snuggle up with me, watch some movies. Clean, disease and drug free. Seeking only good, healthy, caring sincere, non-violent, non-possessive, mentally stable relationship, no mind games, just gratification. Honesty, communication, respect, the 3 things which make it last a lifetime. **Beep (773) 579-7965** *(12)*

Very attractive, discriminating, together, way fit, professional SWF, 29, ISO same and beyond. Are me with your intelligence, independence, beauty, humor and grace... win me over with your honesty, passion, sincerity and smile. So hey, does sharing a bottle of Sangiovese, playing backgammon and talking in front of my fireplace while lying on a Mexican blanket sound like a pretty cool date? Then write immediately (or sooner). Age/race never issues but photo is a must.**NLBox990** *(1)*

ISO femme with many interests, who wants romance and fun times. I'm a butch who's romantic, fun, honest, overweight and has many interests. Please no bi's, drugs or heavy drinkers. Leave message. **VM (773) 635-6124** *(12)*

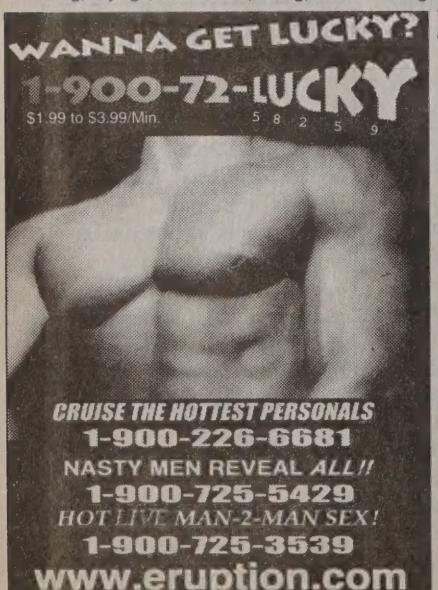
Attractive black gay female seeks other gay black female for friendship, perhaps more. Enjoy movies, dining out, etc. **NLBox 984** *(11)*

Rescue Me!! Tired of the bar scene? GWF 40 (soft butch) looking for femme GHF, GBF financially + emotionally stable. Height + weight proportionate. Looking for someone to share my life with, are you out there? I like movies, dancing, dinner, shipping, new adventures. I'm a one-woman girl. No bi's. **NLBox 978** *(11)*

Word witches! Passionate poets. Writer seeks same to share work, ideas, inspiration. Send me a letter. **NLBox970** *(11)*

Weren't you that cute writer at Sister Spit? I was too. Let's meet and pick up our own girlish pens. Send a letter. **NL/V52370** *(11)*

DEADLINE for Personals: the 10th of each month.



BLACKLINES CLASSIFIEDS

$10 one month
$27 three months
$51 six months
just $90 one year
All rates for 30 words
(25¢ each word over 30)
All rates PRE-PAID only.
(773) 871-7610.
DEADLINE
the 10th of each month

CLASSIFIEDS

BULLETIN BOARD

TAI CHI, STRESS MANAGEMENT, and Fitness for the New Millennium, quality instruction by **Martial Science Institute, (773) 374-5266.** Reasonable rates available for your group of 10+. Master Teacher / Warrior-Priest Mfundishi Olafemi A. Watangulizi has 27 years experience in Asian and African martial science. New class forming at the Church of the Open Door, 60th and Albany, **(773) 778-3030.** Mention this ad for a free introductory class. (2/98)

COUNSELING

YVONNE IRVIN, PH.D. African American Licensed Clinical/Community Psychologist. Over 25 years of experience from Harlem to Kentucky, to Pittsburgh, now Chicago to serve you. North & South Side locations. Sliding scale fees. Most insurance accepted. **(773) 880-2403.** *(1/98)*

MARILEE SNYDER, LCSW, ACSW. Individuals, couples, family and group therapy. Consejo en español indivíduos, parejas, familias y grupos. Emerge from depression and anxiety, build understanding relationships, appreciate different life choices. **(847) 604-3602.** *(4/98)*

HELP WANTED

REGISTERED NURSE. Howard Brown Health Center, the midwest's leading gay, lesbian and bisexual health center, is seeking a Registered Nurse to serve as a team member in Medical Services. Nurse's duties involve processing patients in ambulatory clinic, including taking vitals, performing injections, telephone triage, phlebotomy and assisting in the completion of disability forms. One to two years serving clients with HIV/AIDS in hospital or outpatient setting preferred. Must have current Illinois nursing license. Must be embracing of diverse cultures affected by HIV/AIDS. Candidates must be comfortable with issues of death and dying and safe sex practices. Good communication skills a must. Must be able to lift 25lbs. Howard Brown Health Center is an equal opportunity employer offering a competitive salary and excellent benefits. To apply: **Send resume to Courtney Reid, Human Resource Manager, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60613 or fax 773-388-8887.** Please do not call. *(12/97)*

HEALTH SERVICES

COSMETIC SURGERY — BIG IS IN! Featuring Penis/Pectoral Enlargement, Curvature Correction, Liposuction, Lip, Face/Nose/Eye Reshaping. Board Certified Surgeons. Financing available. Call **800-853-4819** for free brochures and your $1000 discount. Some insurances accepted. *(4/98)*

OUT! Guide
New issue out Dec. 9.

SEARCH for MUSLIMS

IF YOU ARE GAY and were raised in, are practicing, or have ever practiced Islam, an Art Institute graduate student would like to interview you for a student documentary. The interviewed will be respectfully implored to tell their personal stories regarding a subject not entirely realized by either the Islamic or Queer communities. **If interested, call Abu at (773) 645-3608.** *(12/97)*

TRAVEL

GETAWAY COTTAGES in new Buffalo, Mich., 1-1/2 hours from Chicago. Near beach, restaurants, shopping. VCR/TV. 2 or 3 bedroom, fireplace, **(312) 287-2400; 1-800-44-ENVOY.** *(9/98)*

AFRICA! Mysterious ... Exotic ... Breathtaking ... Incomparable! Private, fully escorted safari to Kenya and Tanzania July 98. Join us on a journey of discovery. Call **(773) 975-7225.** *(11/98)*

WhuzzUp this week in D.C.? Men's Event & Info Line in the Black Gay Capitol: 1-900-963-0230 ($1.95 per min). *** ALSO TRY MALEBOX MAGAZINE: The Intimate Opinions, Experiences & Emotions of Black Gay Men $24/12 issues (hardcopy only). More info: Malebox2@aol.com

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

BRONZEVILLE. Meticulously restored 2-story greystone. Four bedrooms, 2+ baths, basement, full length extra side yard, garage, ornate stripped woodwork, hardwood floors, new windows, and skylight. $149,900. **Richard Smith, RE/MAX Realty Group, (773) 334-3347 or (773) 404-3812.** *(12/97)*

PHONE LINES

LEATHERMAN! Meet on ManPark! Call now guys are waiting To talk to you! Try it FREE! 18+ use code 7980. **(773) 728-4044.** *(11/98)*

GAY PERSONALS! Call the Confidential Connection! Record/Listen/Respond FREE! 18+ use code 7802. **(773) 378-7307, (630) 705-7440, (312) 558-5400, (847) 776-5777, (773) 506-3811.** *(10/98)*

J/O BUDDIES! Meet on Club VoiceMale! Browse, Match, Chat! Try it FREE! 18+ use code 7803. **(773) 769-4441.** *(10/98)*

ADULT SERVICES

PENIS, NIPPLE enlargement Professional vacuum pumps or surgical enlargement. Gain 1-3". Permanent, safe. Enhance erection. For FREE Brochures call: **Dr. Joel Kaplan, (312) 409-1950.** Latest enlargement information **1-900-976-PUMP** ($2.95 min.). *(4/98)*

Howard Brown Health Center, the midwest's leading gay, lesbian, and bisexual health center, has the following positions available:

SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR/INTAKE SPECIALIST: Will provide initial assessment for all patients with identified substance use/abuse issues and provide individual substance abuse counseling and referrals. Will offer training on substance abuse issues and proper assessment to case management and primary care teams. Will work as member of a multidisciplinary team focusing on improving medical and mental health care for clients with substance abuse issues. Masters degree in Social Work, Psychology, or related field Substance Abuse Counselor certificate required. Competence in working with clients with HIV/AIDS. Fluency in Spanish highly regarded.

NURSE HEALTH EDUCATOR: Will work as member of multidisciplinary team to meet and provide health care to patients with HIV/AIDS. Provide health education to patients with HIV/AIDS and coordinate HIV health education for the Center. Develop resource center with educational materials on HIV/AIDS and other illnesses for all clients, providers, and employees. provide inservice trainings and participate in HBHC community sponsored events. One to two years experience in HIV/AIDS care with hospital or outpatient setting preferred. Must have current Illinois nursing license. Must be embracing of diverse cultures affected by HIV/AIDS. Good communications skills essential.

NURSE COORDINATOR AT STOP AIDS SOUTH SIDE LOCATION (Part-time): Will perform and coordinate telephone triage for medical services at STOP AIDS and oversee the clinical operation and management of the HIV testing program. Supervise medical office assistant, other clinical staff and volunteers for medical services. Hire, orient, evaluate and supervise all clinical staff on-site. Develop and maintain health education materials. One to two years experience in HIV/AIDS care with hospital or outpatient setting preferred. Must have current Illinois nursing license. Must be embracing of diverse cultures affected by HIV/AIDS. Good communication skills essential.

MEDICAL OFFICE ASSISTANT/LPN AT STOP AIDS SOUTH SIDE LOCATION: Operate and manage client appointment systems, medical records, phone services, clinical area and patient flow. Duties include drawing blood, processing and delivering to lab as needed, answering incoming calls and triaging as appropriate. Maintain stock of exam room and lab. Perform and coordinate lab procedures as assigned. Work as team member within medical and general services. High school graduate or equivalent. Must have current MOA certification or LPN with pharmacology certification. One to two years in a hospital or outpatient setting preferred. Must be embracing of diverse cultures affected by HIV/AIDS.

Howard Brown Health Center is an equal opportunity employer offering a competitive salary and excellent benefits. To apply: send resume to Courtney Reid, Human Resource Manager, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60613 or fax 773-388-8887. Please do not call.

HOWARD BROWN
HEALTH CENTER

World View: World Wide Web

by Andrew Davis

Heard But Not Seen, Part II

In my last column, I talked about how the Net can meld practically every subgroup of people into one large human mass. However, there is also a school of thought that opposes this view. Some believe that the idea of the Net-influenced, raceless society is wrong. These people feel that the computer does not replace identities; instead, they say, the computer is simply an extension of society. To them, it's as if a new land has been discovered, devoid of life and waiting to be colonized. It's an Eden of sorts, unburdened by a history of racial hatred or cultural stereotype. Naturally, this isn't to say that Net users never make race an issue. After the O.J. Simpson verdicts, America Online chat rooms were abuzz with members discussing the cases—and asking each other's race to put comments in context. An important item to remember is that race may be important in a person's identity—but isn't the sole defining feature of one's identity. The Internet allows one to decide whether (s)he wants that info to be part of the discussion.

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Andrew's Picks:

1. Know any fans of Angie and Debbie ("It's Not Natural") Winans? Well, just point them in the direction of the Lavender Light Gospel Choir (http://www.nycnet.com/lavenderlight/) and watch the fun begin. There are pages on upcoming performances, auditions, and recordings.

2. As you might guess, the Kwanzaa Information Center (http://www.melanet.com/kwanzaa/) has loads of information about the holiday. There's even a lexicon called the Internet Living Swahili Dictionary to help you become bi(lingual).

▼▼▼▼▼

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY KWANZAA!

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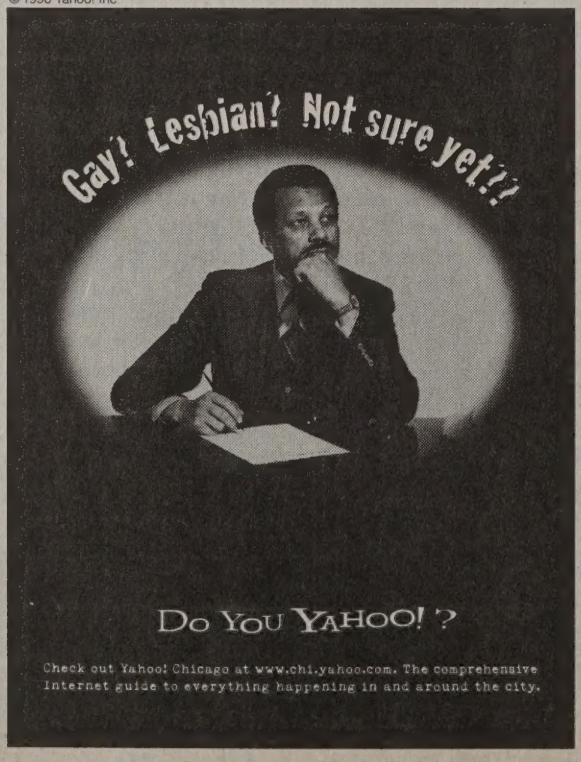
Feel free to e-mail me at gemini1@nwu.edu.


© 1996 Yahoo! Inc
Gay! Lesbian! Not sure yet?!?
Do You Yahoo!?
Check out Yahoo! Chicago at www.chi.yahoo.com. The comprehensive Internet guide to everything happening in and around the city.

F.Y.I. Resources for Black Lesbigays

Predominantly Black Gay Clubs

CLUB ESCAPE, M,W,D,1530 E. 75th St. 773-667-6454
CLUB INTIMUS (only Sat. 9p-3a) 312 W. Randolph, W,D,V....312-901-1703
GENERATOR 306 N.Halsted, D, MW 312-243-8889
GIRLS NIGHT OUT, Fridays, 1200 E. 71st St., Leo's....773-667-3130
JEFFERY PUB 7041 S. Jeffrey, MW, D, 4 773-363-8555
CLUBHOUSE AT CONVENT MW,D, 1529 Armitage, ***MONDAYS*** **11p-4a** 773-395-8660

OTHER Clubs OF INTEREST

BERLIN 954 Belmont, MW, V, 4, S 773-348-4975
BIG CHICKS 5024 N. Sheridan,S/G,WM,11a-2a/3a Sa 773-728-5511
BUDDIES' REST./BAR 3301 Clark, MW, R....773-477-4066
CHICAGO EAGLE, M,L, 5015 N. Clark....773-728-0050
CIRCUIT 3641 N. Halsted, Salsa, etc....773-325-2233
CLUBHOUSE PLAYERS 13126 S. Western, Blue Island, M,D,E,R,GS....708-389-6688
FUSION 3631 N. Halsted, MW, V, D, E, 4 773-975-6622
GIRLBAR, 2625 N. Halsted, W,D 773-871-4210
GLEE CLUB 1543 N. Kingsbury , MW,Sundays ...312-243-2075
GRANVILLE ANVIL 1137 Granville, MW, L 773-973-0006
LITTLE JIM'S 3501 N. Halsted, M, 4 773-871-6116
MAN'S COUNTRY 5017 N. Clark, M, B 773-878-2069
MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE 773-477-8362
RAINBOW ROOM 4530 N. Lincoln, WM,D 773-271-4378
RAM BOOKSTORE 3511 N. Halsted, M 773-525-9528
RED DOG CLUB Monday gay nite, 1958 W. North773-278-1009
ROSCOE'S 3354-6 N. Halsted, MW, D, V, E, Cafe773-281-3355
SIDETRACK 3349 N. Halsted, M, V....773-477-9189
SPIN, Halsted & Belmont, MW, D....773-327-7711
TEMPTATIONS 10235 W. Grand, Franklin Park, W, D,V, E, 4, (5a Fri/Sat)....847-455-0008

Chicago Area Resources

AA/Newtown Alano Club 773-271-6822
Active Proud Black Lesbians and Gays 773-493-3848
Adodi African-American men 312-458-9584
Affinity, creating a South Side community center P.O. Box 496002, Chicago, IL 60649....312-409-7609
Affinity & Bro. II Bro. Youth 773-288-6900, 312-409-7609, x3
African American Womyn's Alliance P.O. Box 198573, Chgo 60619-8573 773-731-0279
A Real Read—African-American LesbigayTrans Performance Ensemble 312-409-2457
BLACKLINES, Lambda Pub./OUTLINES 1115 W. Belmont,#2-D, 60657 (FAX773-871-7609) 773-871-7610 **outlines@suba.com** **http://www.suba.com/~outlines/**
Brother II Brother, Community Outreach 773-288-6900
Chicago Black Lesbians & Gays, P.O. Box 14811, Chicago, IL 60614-1181....312-409-4917
Chgo Gay & Lesbian Marching Band....(773) 743-5738
Church of the Open Door FAX (773) 778-0178 ..773-778-3030 Black lesbigay/trans/heterosexual Church, 5954 S. Albany
The Committee, 2300 N. Clybourn, #32, 60614 773-235-0295
Greater Chicago Committee, P.O. Box 146642, 60614-6642 Healthline 312-661-9153, prevent.773-674-0429 312-670-9660
Horizons Community Services 773-929-HELP
Howard Brown Health Center 773-871-5777
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund 312-663-4413
Last House on the Block G&L in recovery....773-373-0024
Lesbian Community Cancer Project 773-561-4662
Les Femmes Amies....312-232-0787
Men of All Colors Together/Chicago,PO Box 408922, 60640-8922 312-409-6916
Minority Outreach Intervention Proj, FAX 312-986-0928 1255 S. Wabash, Suite 2-S, 60605 312-986-0661
Onyx/Chicago leather/men, 1340 Irving, #188, 60613
Parents, Friends & Family of L&Gs/South Side773-488-7711
Phrasority *parties for all lesbians and gays*....312-409-6637
Roseland Community Hospital 773-995-6469
Stop AIDS/African American Program 1718 E. 75th St., 60649 773-752-7867
Test Positive Aware/Brothers United in Support *HIV/AIDS*....773-404-8726
TransGenesis trans support....312-839-5541
United Faith Affinitas, Black L/G/Bi, 1448 E. 53rd .773-878-7839
Yahimba, 1012-1/2 Dodge, Evanston, IL 60202....847-328-7715
Women of All Colors Together 773-267-0976, (708) 869-9120
Womyn Space: Lez Be In, a sister circle 773-874-2222
Writers Collective —gay, trans, lesbians of color 312-409-2457

No Cost!

HIV Counseling Testing and Referral

Chicago Department of Public Health

Anonymous Testing and Confidential Referrals. Call Today for an Appointment.

Do you know your HIV status? Free HIV counseling, testing and referrals are available at these clinics:

Uptown
845 W. Wilson
744-7533

Lakeview
2861 N. Clark
744-8829

West Town
2418 W. Division
744-5464

Near Southside
1306 S. Michigan
747-0103

Mid South
641 W. 63rd
747-0282

Roseland
200 E. 115th
747-2817

For more information contact
the Chicago Department of Health
312-747-AIDS (TDD 744-2960)
Also available are health educators and
HIV/AIDS educational materials.
City of Chicago, Richard M. Daley, Mayor

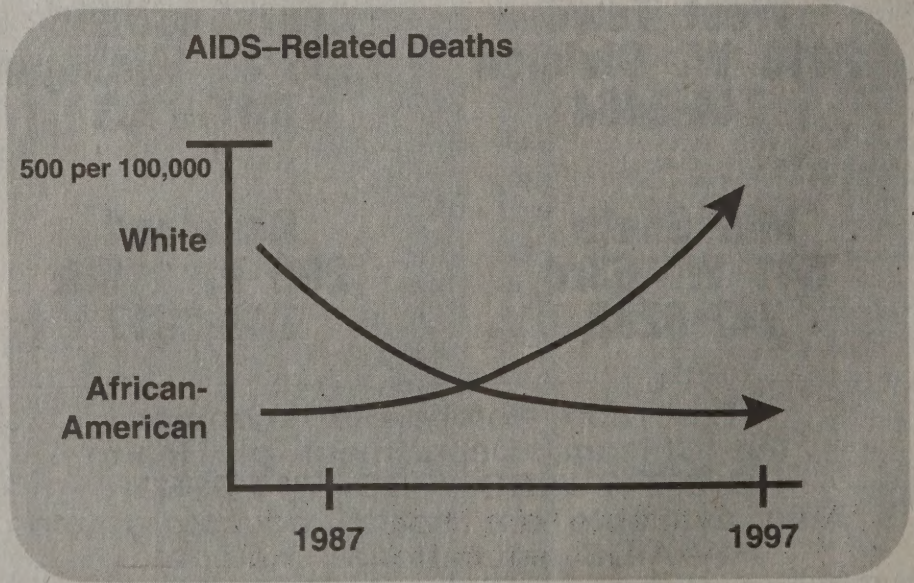
The Latest on SEXUAL HEALTH

WMS CHICAGO'S NEWSTALK 890 AM

Straight Talk: Why More African–Americans Are Dying From AIDS

November 30 @ 11:00pm–1:00am on NEWSTALK 89 WMS

Hosted by AWARE'S Hope Daniels and Chris DeChant



Tune In & Get The Facts